

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

GIRL SCOUTS

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate 90 years of Girl Scouting.

I am pleased that many of my colleagues have also chosen to celebrate and espouse the accomplishments of this time-honored organization.

Once a Girl Scout myself, I proudly support the cultural, political, social, and economic advancements of the millions of girls across the nation.

Girl Scouts of the USA instills young women and girls with a balanced set of values and varied skills, beneficial to the development of every girl who is often vulnerable during these early stages of growth.

Girl Scouting empowers girls to rise to their full potential and relate positively to others.

In addition, the organization creates a foundation for sound decision-making so that these girls may confront society head on and contribute to it.

Not only is Girl Scouting a positive experience for its members, but the organization's advocacy on the national level in building solid communities enabled the Girl Scouts to create a research institute.

With the help of government funding the Girl Scouts have addressed such issues as violence prevention and the digital divide with activities that encourage girls to pursue careers in science, math, and technology.

In my district, the Girl Scouts of Tres Condados number 15,000 members strong.

I am proud to report that two of these young girls were recently awarded Lifesaving Medals of Honor.

The last time these Girl Scouts medals were awarded was 16 years ago.

Nine-year old Lindsey Papa received the award after saving her brother in a boating accident. While others were trying to free the boy from the boat propeller, Lindsey hit the switch that shut off the engine, saving her brother's life.

And amazingly, seven-year old Courtney Harmon received the award when she performed the heimlich maneuver on her classmate saving the classmate's life.

We can undeniably give some credit to the Girl Scouts for training Courtney in First Aid and CPR. Courtney exemplifies how invaluable a First Aid and CPR education can be for children and in schools.

And we can also attribute Lindsey's ability to make sensible decisions under pressure to her Girl Scout experiences.

The remarkable acts of these two young girls are a testament to the objectives of the Girl Scouts.

There are more than 233,000 troops and groups throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. And over 300 local Girl Scout councils offer the opportunity for Girl Scout membership.

I have always encouraged students—males, and young females especially—to get involved in issues that are of importance to them in their communities.

No other organization provides all girls everywhere with the tools and resources entirely favorable to their upbringing.

Girl Scouts is an outlet accessible to all girls, with links to an endless array of possibilities, expression and creativity.

I know the Girl Scouts of the USA will well outlive this 90-year anniversary and continue to be a positive and significant societal influence for centuries to come.

TRIBUTE TO NORM HOFFMAN

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize my friend and former colleague, Norm Hoffman, who was killed in a road accident one year ago today.

Bakersfield suffered a significant loss with the death of Norm Hoffman. Norm was an extraordinary man in many ways, and he left his mark deep on the Bakersfield community. The Bakersfield City Council has officially designated March 16 as Norm Hoffman Day, and this Saturday, Norm will also be honored by the dedication of a memorial on the Bakersfield College campus where he was a beloved teacher to hundreds of students both inside and outside of the classroom.

Norm was a dedicated athlete and fitness enthusiast. He was distinguished early by his athletic ability, but didn't find his real love, cycling, until later in life. As a college student, Norm was the NCAA champion in the half-mile at Oregon State and only a hamstring injury kept him from competing for a spot on the 1964 Olympic Team. In the 1970's, Norm took up and excelled at bodybuilding, winning the Mr. Kern County abdominal muscle group award and bulking up to 260 pounds. However, he found his greatest athletic success and enjoyment when he began cycling after age 40.

The list of Norm's successes in cycling go on and on: four-time national champion in the 40 kilometer time trials; three national and world records; and consideration for a place on the 1988 Olympic time trials team at age 46. The most important of his achievements; however, is also his legacy: a whole generation of local cyclists who were inspired to take up the sport from his example. Norm's influence on the community is clearly visible. Chances are that most of the many cyclists you'll see on the bike path on Saturday morning owe their involvement in the sport to Norm Hoffman.

Norm was a familiar sight to many of us in Bakersfield, as he cycled to and from Bakersfield College greeting his many friends with a wide grin. His determination, vitality, bound-

less energy and dedication to others are devoutly missed, but despite his absence, Norm continues to serve as an inspiration and as a role model to the many people who knew his indomitable spirit.

GIRL SCOUTS' 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, ninety years ago, in Savannah, Georgia, Juliette Gordon Low formed an organization for girls. The original Girl Scout troop consisted of 18 girls from the Savannah community. Today, the Girl Scout organization has grown to include more than 3.7 million current members, and more than 50 million girls and women have at one time or another been members of the Girl Scouts of America.

The Girl Scouts of America was recognized by this body in 1950 by a Congressional Charter. Today, they are part of a global family that serves more than 140 nations and has more than 10 million members.

While we all are familiar with Girl Scout Cookies, what many people are not aware of is the diverse make-up of Girl Scout Troops in this nation and around the world. Currently in the United States there are more than 233,000 troops meeting in homes, churches, schools and community centers. Nearly one million adults volunteer serve as leaders to teach girls self-confidence and skills, and to encourage them to think creatively and to act with integrity.

In addition to conventional troops, Girl Scouts meet in detention centers, and group homes. They meet, in homeless shelters, and in migrant farm camps, and some meet via the Internet. The goal is to allow as many girls as possible to develop their full potential; relate positively with others; develop values that provide the foundation for sound decision-making; and to contribute to society.

In a day and age of less-than-positive role models, it is vital that our young people have the opportunity to grow and be influenced by positive mentors, and to learn skills that will help them to be productive and conscientious members of society.

The Girl Scouts have established a research institute, work to address violence prevention, and are encouraging girls to pursue careers in science, math, and technology.

I am proud the Girl Scouts began in my home state. I am proud one of my granddaughters is a Girl Scout. I am proud of the contributions this fine group has made to the nation and to the world. Congratulations to the Girl Scouts of America on their 90th birthday. I wish them many more years of service in the fulfillment of their mission to nurture girls and help them build character and skills for success.

• 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
PEANUT BUTTER DAY**HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, today is National Peanut Butter Day—a time to celebrate one of America's favorite foods. National Peanut Butter Day is part of the month long celebration of National Peanut Month. It offers a time to recognize the nutritional and economic values of peanuts. The state of Georgia ranks number one in the nation in peanut production growing peanuts in 79 countries and 45 percent of all peanuts grown in the United States. The industry has been a mainstay in south Georgia's economy for over 60 years and continues to benefit our local economy. The eighth congressional district of Georgia is second largest producer of peanuts in the nation.

Not only are peanuts an important part of our economy, but they offer nutritional benefits by providing essential vitamins and minerals. They are an excellent source of the B vitamin folic acid, which can prevent birth defects and lower the risk of heart disease. One serving of peanuts provides protein, vitamin E, niacin, folate, phosphorus, and magnesium, which can help lower blood pressure and decrease the risk of diabetes in women.

National Peanut Month and Peanut Butter Day provides us the opportunity to recognize the benefits of peanuts as well as the hard work of all the people in the peanut industry. Mr. Chairman, I hope you will join me today in recognizing National Peanut Butter Day and National Peanut Month.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY
OF GIRL SCOUTS USA**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th anniversary of Girl Scouts USA. For ninety years, Girl Scouts has had a proven track record of empowering girls to become leaders, helping adults be positive role models and mentors for children and helping build solid communities.

When founder Juliette Gordon Low assembled 18 girls ninety years ago she started what would become the largest organization of girls in the world. It was because of her vision, that girls now have access to a forum to develop mentally, spiritually, and physically. Girl Scouts promotes the ideas of fun, friendship and power of girls together. Through experiences such as cultural exchanges, outdoor experiences and community service projects girls learn life skills. They acquire self-confidence and expertise, take on responsibility, are encouraged to think creatively and act with integrity—qualities essential in good citizens and great leaders.

The Girl Scout Mission is "to help all girls grow strong." I hope we can follow the examples set by the Girl Scouts and remember the great importance of coming together to give back to our communities.

CLEAN DIAMOND TRADE

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to update my colleagues on recent progress made in the battle against the scourge of conflict diamonds. The U.S. House of Representatives has been at the forefront of this work, and I am proud of our action on the Clean Diamond Trade Act last year—landmark legislation that would advance this fight. However, this problem requires a broader solution than the United States can implement alone. I am pleased to report that yesterday, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the Kimberley Process's efforts to craft a system of customs controls capable of ending this blood trade.

International Efforts.—That work is far from complete, and a critical next step will be taken next week as representatives of civil society, the diamond industry, and more than 35 countries gather to finish the job. If they rise to the challenges conflict diamonds pose, we soon will have a mechanism for preventing rough diamonds that fund war from being traded as legitimate gems.

Yesterday, the non-governmental organizations whose exposés of this blood trade instigated this work warned all involved in this work that a flawed agreement may be worse than none at all. More needs to be done on monitoring and enforcing the system, making it transparent through the publication of key statistics on the secretive trade, and on WTO issues will be critical. NGOs argue that neither embattled civilians in Africa, nor terrorist targets in America, nor the countries and companies that depend on the legitimate trade in diamonds can afford half-measures or complacent confidence that the situation magically will resolve itself. They are absolutely right.

There is another grave flaw in this work: it depends upon a definition of conflict diamonds that senselessly excludes those mined in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Under the terms of both the Kimberley Process and the Clean Diamond Trade Act, conflict diamonds are only those embargoed by the United Nations. That means that unless the United Nations imposes sanctions on diamonds originating in a war zone, as it has in the case of the wars in Angola, Sierra Leone and Liberia, trade in the diamonds that fuel conflict there cannot be checked by this new international system.

A War for Plunder.—Diamonds are not the cause of what has come to be known as Africa's First World War, but they play a crucial role in sustaining it and spreading misery elsewhere—perhaps even to the United States, because Al Qaeda, Hezbollah, and other radical organizations reportedly have funded their terrorist activities with Congolese diamonds. There is ample evidence that diamonds and other resources have become the reason for the Congo's war, so ending their illegal trade essential. Some of the most compelling reports of the link between plunder and misery have been made by the United Nations' Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Here are a few excerpts from them:

Parties to the war in the DRC are "motivated by desire to control and profit from the natural resources of the [DRC] and . . . they finance their armies and military operations by exploiting those resources."—From the report of the Panel of Experts of April 2001.

The conflict in the [DRC], because of its lucrative nature, has created a "win-win" situation for all belligerents. Adversaries and enemies are at times partners in business. . . . Business has superceded security concerns. The only loser in this huge business venture is the Congolese people.

Illegal exploitation of the mineral and forest resources of the [DRC] is taking place at an alarming rate. The conflict in the [DRC] has become mainly about access, control and trade of five key mineral resources . . . Plundering, looting and racketeering and the constitution of criminal cartels are becoming commonplace in occupied territories. These criminal cartels have ramifications and connections worldwide, and they represent the next serious security problem in the region.

The link between the continuation of the conflict and the exploitation of natural resources would have not been possible if some entities, not parties in the conflict, had not played a key role, willingly or not. Bilateral and multilateral donors and certain neighboring and distant countries have passively facilitated the exploitation of the resources of the [DRC] and the continuation of the conflict; the role of private companies and individuals has also been vital.—From the report of the Panel of Experts of April 2001.

The systematic exploitation of natural resources and other forms of wealth of the [DRC] continues unabated . . . the cease-fire is generally respected on the front line, leaving the exploitation of the resources as the main activity of the foreign troops. There is a clear link between the continuation of the conflict and the exploitation of natural resources. It would not be wrong to say that one drives the other. The military operations and presence in the [DRC] of all sides have been transformed into self-financing activities. . . .

The initial motivation of foreign countries or armies to intervene in the [DRC] was primarily political and security-related in nature; over a period of time, and owing to the evolving nature of the conflict it has become the primary motive of extracting the maximum commercial and material benefits. This holds true for both government allies and rebel supporters.—From the report of the Panel of Experts of November 2001.

United Nations is Dithering.—Despite the eloquent words of the United Nations' experts and diplomats, the impassioned calls for action made by virtually everyone who has examined the situation in the DRC, and the full knowledge that each day of delay has serious consequences for innocent Congolese, the United Nations has continued to dither.

Three months ago, the Security Council "strongly condemned the continued plundering of the [DRC's] natural resources . . . which it said was perpetuating the conflict in the country, impeding economic development and exacerbating the suffering of the Congolese people." But then, instead of acting on the incontrovertible evidence that had been painstakingly gathered, it gave U.N. experts six more months to come up with yet more information and to propose solutions.

Given the complexities of the resource trade, the shifting alliances involved in the war, the thorny issues of sovereignty, and—perhaps determinative—the clear preference of Security Council members to buck tough decisions to a later time, it is not surprising that the Panel concluded in November that:

exploitation of natural resources in the [DRC] cannot be viewed and dealt with in isolation . . . This is one part of the problem which is inextricably linked to other serious issues in the region.

However, in his presentation to the Security Council, the Panel's Chairman, Mahmoud Kaseem, also warned that "failure to follow up on the recommendations would send a message to traffickers and profiteers that they could continue their activities with impunity."

Few could quarrel with what the Panel advocates: "a resolution of the broader conflict in the [DRC] and the region" and a "rebuilding of the State institutions [which] will require a systematic and sustained approach stretching over many years, and with the full assistance and cooperation of the international community." And of course it is good news that yet another round of peace talks is underway today, and better news that, save for low-intensity conflicts, a cease-fire has largely held for nearly a year. But the report's bad news is what's at issue: that, at the present rate, it will take longer to stop the plundering phase of the war than its shooting phase.

Given the richness of the Congo's resources and its horrifying history since the late 1800s, there is little reason to hope the current era of misery will be either short or less deadly than prior ones. Belgium's exploitation of the Congo left 7–10 million dead and a record of viciousness that almost matches that of the drug-addled rebels who've turned Sierra Leone into a nation of amputees and war victims. Then, after the Congo's independence, Mobutu Sese Seko, the strongman who ruled it with full U.S. support for decades, became one of the world's richest men from the trade in resources that are his people's rightful patrimony. Now, in the years since the Congo descended into chaos and war, these same resources again have turned it into a battleground. As respected journalist Richard C. Hottelet put it:

One hundred years ago, novelist Joseph Conrad called what was then King Leopold II's private property the "Heart of Darkness" and its exploitation a horror. This vast land is now called the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and what is happening there eclipses Conrad. . . . The Congo, as big as the United States east of the Mississippi, with 50 million people, has become a carcass being chewed at by its elite and its neighbors. They have looted and sold its natural resources on a scale without precedent. This, with the direct or tacit complicity of pious governments and corporations around the world. . . . For Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi, the Congo is too rich a cash cow to abandon. From the *Christian Science Monitor*, May 16, 2001.

Given the Congo's current situation and decades of experience, the question before members of the international community today is straightforward: How long do we intend to wait to act? A small and anemic contingent of UN troops are there now, in a situation that echoes the one in Sierra Leone in the weeks before 500 UN peacekeepers were kidnapped there two years ago. The international community did little until it suffered that humiliation,

then hastened to sanction the diamonds rebels used to fund their brazen attacks. Is yet another crisis what the United Nations is waiting for? Can it instead act on the ample evidence of suffering and plunder before the situation takes another turn for the worse?

I share the fervent hopes of many concerned people at the United Nations and elsewhere that a comprehensive approach to ending the plunder of the Congo and securing a lasting peace will be found. But I strongly disagree with the United Nations' apparent conclusion that—if it can't do everything—it shouldn't do anything. The Congo's people, and others threatened by the problems that fester in its chaos, can't want for an over-arching system of controls on every valuable resource this rich country produces. They can't afford another six months of expert investigation of problems that obviously exist, and grand solutions that will take even longer to devise than the Kimberley Process has spent on its system of controlling rough diamonds.

In truth, neither can we Americans. A December 2001 account by *Washington Post* investigative reporter Douglas Farah detailed the way Al Qaeda, Hezbollah and other radical Islamic groups are funding their terrorist attacks by trading conflict diamonds and other Congolese resources. Africans and Americans have learned together in recent months the hard lesson that averting our eyes is not the way to deal with a problem, however intractable.

Congo: The Next Focus.—The United Nations has tied itself in knots trying not to infringe upon any nation's sovereign rights. I understand its dilemma in trying to determine which nations are participating defensively and which are aggressors, but enough is enough, particularly when it comes to diamonds. I suspect what matters most to consumers is that diamonds' image differs from reality. To Americans in particular—who buy half of the world's diamond gems and jewelry, and 10 percent of its rough diamonds—the fact that a diamond might be funding war is what matters. Whose blood stains their token of love, whether it belongs to a Rwandan soldier or a Zimbabwean, probably isn't nearly as important.

When Kimberley Process nations, the diamond industry, and members of civil society complete the first phase of their efforts against conflict diamonds next week, I hope they will turn their energies to the DRC's forgotten war. Finding a way to close the Congo-sized loophole that threatens to undercut their good work on a global system, and that is leaving the Congolese people untouched by an approach that has proven constructive in other countries torn by wars over diamonds, is essential.

Together with other leaders of the work against conflict diamonds in the House of Representatives, I am drafting legislation that aims to support responsible action on this pressing problem. Unfortunately, this is not something the United States can do unilaterally. Nor is it an issue that should continue to be subsumed to the interests of some U.S. allies who are involved in the Congo's war. The precedent we set in the deadliest war of this decade should not merely serve the narrow interests of any one nation; it should support future work to put diamonds beyond the reach of thugs and terrorists.

I look forward to working with Congressional leaders, the Bush administration, the diamond

and jewelry industries, human rights and humanitarian organizations, and others to address this flaw in international efforts to combat conflict diamonds, and to ensure we reach our goal by ending this scourge.

Clean Diamond Trade Act.—In closing, I want to give our colleagues an update on H.R. 2722, the legislation we endorsed 408–6 last November. My hope and that of other sponsors was that the Senate would act quickly on this landmark legislation, both to push other countries to meet their Kimberley Process obligations and to serve as a pilot for this project so any flaws in this approach could be corrected through the legislation the Administration plans to introduce this year.

To my great dismay, that has not happened, and the extraordinary coalition of industry and activists that supported the Clean Diamond Trade Act has collapsed over differences in how Congress should proceed. I remain hopeful that the Senate sponsors of H.R. 2722's companion—which represents a compromise that I brokered between the human rights community and the diamond industry—will find a way through their differences with the Bush Administration and the House so that this bill can be enacted at the earliest opportunity.

I don't quarrel with our Senate partners' preference for stronger legislation; in fact, I share it, and want the record to be clear that their differences are honorable ones grounded in the bill's substance. This is not a partisan issue, as Congressmen WOLF, HOUGHTON and RANGEL and Senators DURBIN, DEWINE, FEINGOLD and GREGG's combined efforts demonstrate.

However, having worked steadily on this issue since I first met the victims of one war over conflict diamonds, and sponsored six different bills aimed at resolving it, I am convinced that there simply is no silver bullet capable of stopping this criminal trade. Giving our Customs agents weapons to battle it, giving activists tools to expose shortcomings in enforcement, finding ways to complement the law through development and diplomacy, and remaining vigilant until this scourge ends are the only real solution.

I hope this work can begin soon, with the United States at the forefront and supported by the international community and this Congress.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY GIRL SCOUTS

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my sincere congratulations to the Suffolk County Girl Scouts in celebration of their 90th Anniversary.

Over 35,000 girls participate in Girl Scouts in Suffolk County and it is the largest Girls Scout Council in New York State. In addition, the Girl Scouts of Suffolk County are the "largest youth serving agency" on Long Island.

The Girl Scouts are dedicated to helping girls reach their fullest potential. And one of the keys they do that is by having girls help other girls. Through peer leadership, mentoring and support, the Girl Scouts help our girls make the transition from child to adult.

The Girl Scouts of Suffolk County have designed a special patch that was unveiled yesterday, the six-month anniversary of September 11th, in memory of the horrific tragedy and Attack on America. The patch will be distributed across the nation; to earn it, each girl must participate in four activities that commemorate September 11th.

The Suffolk County Girl Scouts have pledged to perform 90,000 hours of community service benefiting Long Island this year. Their dedication to the community is to be commended.

I wish great success to the Girls Scouts as they embark on this great endeavor to make Suffolk County a better place.

COMMEMORATION OF ST.
PATRICK'S DAY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the Irish community in celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

On March 17, 2002, people from around the world will come together to celebrate the life of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. During the fifth century, St. Patrick devoted his life to sharing the Christian faith with the native Irish people. As it has been for centuries, the entire Irish community will celebrate the day with music, parades, and family gatherings. When Irish soldiers serving in the English military held the first St. Patrick's Day parade on March 17, 1762, through the streets of New York City, they started a tradition that continues until the present day.

During the mid-1800s, millions of Irish immigrants came to America to seek new lives. Today, the United States is enriched not only by the contributions of these immigrants, but also by that of their sons, daughters, and grandchildren. Irish-Americans have made major contributions to all aspects of American society, including sports, medicine, religion, politics, and the arts.

Their innumerable contributions are why it is appropriate to honor the Irish community with a commemorative postage stamp honoring Irish American Heritage Month. This commemorative stamp would salute the accomplishments of all Irish-Americans and their invaluable contributions to the American way of life. From President John F. Kennedy to F. Scott Fitzgerald to the brave firefighters who gave their lives on September 11, 2001, Irish-Americans have strengthened and enhanced our Nation and it is only appropriate that those contributions be honored and celebrated by all Americans.

America can boast a population of 44 million Irish-Americans and I am proud that my home State of Michigan has a thriving Irish-American community. In our State, many Irish-American organizations work each day to enrich our neighborhoods. These institutions provide invaluable public service, as well as a strong foundation for the community as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I join the people of Ireland, all those of Irish ancestry around the world and our own Irish-American community in celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

IN RECOGNITION OF AKTINA
PRODUCTIONS, INC.

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to AKTINA Productions Inc. This year, AKTINA Productions Inc., which produces Greek-American radio and television programs, will be commemorating the 47th anniversary of the beginning of the battle for independence from British colonial rule waged by Cyprus. In memory of those Cypriots who lost their lives in the struggle for freedom, on March 17, 2002, AKTINA Productions will be hosting an anniversary event entitled "To the Immortals."

Founded in 1993, AKTINA Productions Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting Cypriot and Greek culture. Known as the "voice of Cyprus" in America, it emphasizes cultural and educational development through radio and television as well as live performances, including concerts and dance shows.

In May of 1993, AKTINA Productions Inc. had the distinction of introducing the first ever bilingual Greek-American radio show, known as AKTINA FM. AKTINA FM is a live call-in Greek-American Radio Magazine which highlights Greek culture, heritage and tradition and focuses on national and international issues affecting Cyprus and Greece. AKTINA FM is presently heard by more than 500,000 listeners on the radio, and more than 7,000 on the Internet. Call-in segments often feature a wide range of diverse participants and subjects, including education, immigration, health, crime prevention and the arts.

AKTINA FM also facilitates a number of educational programs dedicated to children ranging in ages from 7–17 years. They also offer platforms for children from a variety of ethnic and social backgrounds to display their various talents in poetry, speech, composition and other areas. AKTINA FM also offers a monthly Student Essay Contest in which more than 100 public schools participate and almost all of the Greek-American day and afternoon schools of the Greek Archdiocese in the tri-state area participate. Nearly 60 children ages 7–15 years will take part in the "To the Immortals" anniversary event.

For its many contributions to the community, I ask that my colleagues join me in saluting AKTINA Productions Inc.

GIRL SCOUTS' 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the Girl Scouts of the USA in celebrating their 90th anniversary. Since the organization's inception in 1912, the Girl Scouts have taken on the mission of giving all girls the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually. For the last 90 years, Girl Scouts has empowered girls to become leaders, helping adults be positive role models and mentors for children, and helping

to build solid communities. We have experienced this in our own family and still remember fondly the visit with our daughter to founder Juliette Gordon Low's home in Savannah. Through Girl Scouting, girls acquire self-confidence and expertise, take on responsibility, and are encouraged to think creatively and act with integrity—the qualities that are essential in good citizens and great leaders.

Today, Girl Scouting has a membership of 3.8 million—2.7 girl members and over 900,000 adult members—making it the largest organization for girls in the world. Girl Scouting is available to all girls ages 5–17 through participation in more than 233,000 troops throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. The Pines of Carolina Girl Scout Council, which serves girls in North Carolina's Fourth District, boasts a membership of more than 21,000 girls. As an organization, the Girl Scouts have recently rededicated themselves to ensuring that Girl Scouting is available to every girl in every community, reaching beyond racial, ethnic, socioeconomic or geographic boundaries.

The positive impact that Girl Scouting has on our communities cannot be overstated, and I am proud of the work of the Girl Scouts of the USA, particularly the work which benefits thousands of families in North Carolina. It is my pleasure to congratulate and commend this organization on its 90th anniversary.

HONORING MAYOR LUTHER JONES
OF CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my friend, a great man and Mayor Emeritus of Corpus Christi, TX, Mayor Luther Jones, who passed away last week after a very short hospitalization. He was a great man, a beloved friend, and a figure known far beyond Corpus Christi as a moral, lovable man who loved life, his home, and all the people in it.

To see the future, you must stand on the shoulders of a giant. Mayor Jones' political legacy, his legacy of good government, is easily the leadership he exhibited in 1983 when he forced all parties in disagreement about the election of city officials to sit together in the same room until the issue was resolved. His leadership at that moment in our history was pivotal to restructuring the city's election process.

In the highly charged emotions of the time, Mayor Jones saw around the curve of history, and through the sheer force of will, personality, and the righteousness of the cause, he persuaded all parties to find a compromise—modified single member-districts—which changed the face of Corpus Christi politics and offered minorities entry into city government.

As much as he will be remembered for delivering Corpus Christi into the late 20th century in terms of political participation, it is his personal legacy that made him a widely loved friend and leader.

While many in south Texas have extolled the mayor for his contributions to the Nation's military through his leadership at the Corpus Christi Army Depot and his support for education, particularly his successful effort to get

a four-year institution of higher learning in Corpus Christi, that was not what was most important to him.

The thing that he loved the most was the school that bore his name, the Luther Jones Elementary School, because he knew the silver bullet, the single most important thing in the life of a young person was education, pure and simple. He knew you had to get kids early to make an impression on them.

The children there loved him, and he loved them. He never missed a graduation; he came to every event and spoke to everyone there. He wanted these young people to know there was an adult who believed in them. And they believe in him.

In the weeks just before the mayor passed, the children at Luther Jones Elementary were building a monument to him. The pentagon-shaped monument had words on each side of it most often associated with the mayor: Integrity, Honesty, Perseverance, Success, and Victory. These were the traits of the only man ever afforded the title of Mayor Emeritus in the history of Corpus Christi.

If the measure of a man is in the number of lives touched, of positive changes made, Corpus Christi Mayor Emeritus Luther Jones will be the yardstick by which the rest of us are measured. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering this great American patriot today.

RECOGNIZING THE GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the legacy of Juliette Gordon Low. Ninety years ago this week, she founded an institution—the Girl Scouts of the United States of America—which has since inspired over 50 million American women.

In our nation, over two and a half million young women participate in this institution that has a simple goal—to endow our girls with self-confidence, responsibility, integrity and leadership skills; and to help them develop physically, mentally and spiritually into successful adults.

Further, as Chairman of the House Committee on Science, I would like to commend the efforts of the Girl Scouts to close the gap in math and science education that exists between our boys and our girls. While only around one-fifth of our scientists and engineers are women, the Girl Scouts are working to expose girls to a wide variety of experiences and career choices and open new opportunities for girls in science.

Also today, I would like to recognize the fortieth anniversary of the Foothills Girl Scout Council in my Congressional district. This year, along with other outstanding young women across the country, Jennifer Fleischer, Krystina Novak and Jessica Walker from the Foothills Girl Scout Council have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award. They have done so through considerable efforts and contributions to their communities, and I congratulate them on their wonderful achievements.

Girl Scouts of the United States of America, I salute you at your ninetieth anniversary, and

thank you for strengthening the minds, bodies and spirits of America's girls and young women.

GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, this week is the 90th anniversary of Girl Scouting in America. After its founding in 1912, and its Congressional Charter in 1950, it has grown to a membership of over 2.7 million girls. Today, in Oklahoma, there are 25,000 Girl Scouts, with 8,500 volunteers helping girls develop to their full potential. Evidence has demonstrated that the more time a girl spends in Girl Scouts, the more likely she is to be drug free, avoid sexual activity that can lead to unwanted pregnancy, and attend college. I commend all of the leaders across America who are working to make our children's lives better, and to prepare the next generation for a healthy and productive future.

ACKNOWLEDGING AHEPA'S SALUTE TO AMERICA

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), the largest and oldest association of Americans of Greek heritage and Philhellenes. This entity plans to honor and memorialize members of the community who perished in the tragic events of September 11, 2001. It will also salute those who have carried out courageous acts or performed tremendous philanthropic and humanitarian deeds during one of the most trying moments of our country's history.

The attack on America was an assault upon the values of democracy which have enabled our nation to persevere with strength and resolve for well over two hundred years. These values, given to Western Civilization by the ancient Greeks, comprise our freedoms, our liberty, and our commitment to uphold justice. Together these ideals, combined with the American tradition of tolerance for people of different faiths and ethnic backgrounds, will help us to overcome our current challenges and be victorious in our common fight against terrorism.

On March 25, 2002, in the spirit of that tradition, the descendants of ancient Greece, who as immigrants came to America because of the very democratic ideals fostered by their ancestors, will come together to "Honor America." This event will be hosted by the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, an organization founded by visionary Greek immigrants eighty years ago. They will pay their respects to family, friends, neighbors, and fellow citizens, who lost their lives to terror and will express their humble gratitude to those who placed their lives in harm's way to save the lives of others.

President George W. Bush, in an address on November 8, 2001, said our nation was

born in a spirit of courage and optimism "as immigrants yearning for freedom courageously risked their lives in search of greater opportunity." The decedents of Greek immigrants offer thanks and pay homage to America, warmly embracing this spirit of optimism and courage that President Bush said "must guide those of us fortunate enough to live here."

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the efforts of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association to honor, memorialize, and salute members of the community affected by the sad events of September 11, 2001, during the organization's 35th Biennial Congressional Banquet, held March 25, 2002, in Washington, DC.

HAPPY 90TH ANNIVERSARY, GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to congratulate and thank the Girl Scouts of the USA for their 90 years of service and dedication to the young women of our nation.

I am extremely blessed to have two extraordinary Girl Scout Councils in my district that truly deserve to be honored during this 90th Anniversary Celebration. Serving over 4,000 girls, the Green Meadows and Centrillio Girl Scout Councils have clearly demonstrated their strong commitment to the development of strong and confident young women. We must not forget that these women are those who will become the future leaders of our communities, our nation, and our world. In addition, the Girl Scouts have throughout their history allowed many adult volunteers the opportunity to reach out to young women in the community and act as positive role models and mentors.

I ask all of my colleagues in the House to join me in taking the time this week and throughout the year of their 90th Anniversary Celebration to honor the Girl Scouts of the USA for their hard work and dedication in providing an atmosphere "Where Girls Grow Strong".

THE SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the "September 11th, 2001 Commemorative Coin Act" which calls for the introduction of a circulating commemorative coin that would honor the victims of the events of September 11th.

A generation ago, the events of December 7th, 1941 became not only a day of infamy, but also a reference point that no one has forgotten. My father knows precisely where he was on that Sunday in December, just as I suspect nearly all Americans know what they were doing when the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were attacked.

Events of cataclysmic proportion, as well as epic struggles, have long been commemorated on the coinage of various countries. Canada's tombac nickel, for example, issued in 1943, contains a new reverse design from the famous Churchill "V" for victory over the Nazi Axis war machine.

America's circulating coinage is not so different. The heraldic eagles utilized on the reverse of our coinage has had the beak of the eagle pointed, variously, to olive branches of peace, or towards the talons holding arrows of war.

Nonetheless, important historical personages, as well as historic events, have long been common on coinage. That's precisely the reason why the destruction of the World Trade Center in New York, a galvanizing event if ever there was one, deserves permanent memorialization on our nation's coinage.

Striking such a coin would permanently memorialize, for all time, the event that occurred, and to offer some numismatic assurance that it will not be forgotten. It affords a permanent memorial to the more than 3,000 innocent victims—a tribute that they richly deserve.

An article suggesting this was published shortly after the events of September 11 in *Numismatic News*, a coin collector's periodical. The author is my Mayor, my neighbor and friend, David L. Ganz, of Fair Lawn, New Jersey. David is a former member of the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee, and a past president of the American Numismatic Association, and I would like to have the article reprinted in its entirety in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, the events of September 11 call for a distinctive tribute to honor not only those who perished, but also those who remain. I believe that coinage, as it has been for thousands of years, is an appropriate response and urge prompt consideration of the bill introduced today.

[From the *Numismatic News*, Oct. 2, 2001]
PUT WORLD TRADE CENTER ON NEW HALF
DOLLAR

(By David L. Ganz)

America's tragedy that is personified by the destruction of the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, through a vicious, criminal assault on its sovereignty on Sept. 11 in a suicide bombing, is deserving of a lasting tribute.

Coinage, since the time of Caesar, has served the simultaneous purpose of doing the business of commerce and remembering historic events that are worthy of commemoration. In ancient times, coins of that era were utilized to pay homage to the emperors, to celebrate victories on the battlefield.

Two members of Congress, Rep. Elliot Engel, D-N.Y., and J.C. Watts, R-Okla., are evidently planning to introduce legislation creating a "Spirit of America" coin to commemorate the victims of the attacks. Engle, from the Bronx, and Watts, from Oklahoma City, have seen their neighborhoods fall victim to terrorism.

The idea of using the medium of the Caesars to mark our own catastrophe is a good one. Events of cataclysmic proportion, as well as epic struggles, have long been commemorated on the coinage of various countries. Canada's tombac nickel, for example, issued in 1943, contains a new reverse design from the famous Churchill "V" for victory over the Nazi Axis war machine.

America's circulating coinage is not so different. The heraldic eagles utilized on the reverse of our coinage has had the beak of the

eagle pointed, variously, to olive branches of peace, or towards the talons holding arrows of war.

The heraldic eagle on the reverse of the silver dollar (1798-1804) is one example of this (pointed toward arrows of war), while the Seated Liberty dollar of 1840-1873 had the eagle's head pointed toward olive branches, as does the Morgan dollar (1878-1921).

In the 20th century, the first circulating commemorative was struck for the centennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, in 1909. The Annual Report of the Director of the Mint simply noted that, "With the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury the new design for the bronze one-cent coin was adopted in April 1909. On the obverse the head of Lincoln appears instead of the Indian head which this piece had borne since 1864. The engraver of the mint at Philadelphia was instructed to prepare dies and coinage of this piece was commenced in May. . ."

In March 1931, Congress enacted legislation overturning a portion of the Act of Sept. 26, 1890 (limiting design changes to no more frequently than once in 25 years on circulating coinage) and specifically authorized and directed the Secretary of the Treasury "for the purpose of commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Washington, to change the design of the 25-cent piece so that the portrait of George Washington shall appear on the obverse, with appropriate devices on the reverse. . ."

Following President Roosevelt's death in 1945, the Mint produced a Roosevelt memorial medal, and also introduced a new circulating commemorative coin design for the dime (dated 1946). Vermeule terms the coin "the logical memorial for Franklin Roosevelt in the regular coinage."

After the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Congress enacted the law of Dec. 30, 1963, directing that the Franklin half be replaced with a design "which shall bear on one side the likeness of the late president of the United States John Fitzgerald Kennedy," a motif which Vermeule terms a "hasty; emotional advent" even though the design is "a tolerable, staidly handsome coin."

The One Bank Holding Company Act of 1970 required a coin to "bear the likeness of the late President of the United States, Dwight David Eisenhower, and on the other side thereof a design which is emblematic of the symbolic eagle of Apollo 11 landing on the moon."

In 1973, Congress passed Public Law 93-127 which directed the Treasury Secretary to commemorate the Bicentennial of the American Revolution with a reverse design change for the quarter dollar, half dollar and dollar coin, all of which were intended for circulation, but of which only the quarter dollar really achieved circulation. The colonial drummer boy on the quarter, dated 1776-1976 (and produced in 1975 and 1976 by the Mint) still can be found occasionally in circulation today, a reminder of our Bicentennial celebration a generation ago.

The half dollar (bearing Independence Hall on the reverse), and the dollar (Liberty Bell imposed on the lunar surface) never really achieved circulation. Occasionally, examples of the half are found in circulation. The dollar coin never really entered circulation in the first instance. Collector versions of the coins were struck in silver-clad material, as required by law.

More recently, in 1979, a dollar coin commemorating Susan B. Anthony was produced by the Mint. The reverse was directed to have "a design which is emblematic of the symbolic eagle of Apollo 11 landing on the moon." Its design was identical to that of the Eisenhower dollar authorized in 1970. The coin did achieve partial circulation in some

areas of the country, and in that sense is a circulating commemorative coin, but never achieved general circulation success.

Nonetheless, important historical personages, as well as historical events, have long been common on coinage. That's precisely the reason why the destruction of the World Trade Center in New York, a galvanizing event if ever there was one, deserves permanent memorialization on our coinage.

There is a danger, from the close proximity of headlines, to suggest what will become history. But in the same sense that President Roosevelt termed the attack on Pearl Harbor a day of infamy, so, too, the attack on the twin towers of the World Trade Center marks the start of a 21st century war that is unlikely to be over quickly, or events that will be quickly forgotten.

The very metal that the coins are made of is the reason that they should be struck—to permanently memorialize, for all time, the event that occurred, and to offer some numismatic assurance that it will not be forgotten. It affords a permanent memorial to more than 5,000 innocent victims, a tribute that they richly deserve.

Unlike other issues, this one should have no surcharge at all. Even if numismatic versions are authorized, they should be available to the public on the basis of cost plus a modest profit for the Mint.

What should be considered, however, is directing the use of the seigniorage, which, if a half dollar is chosen, would constitute about 46 cents for every coin. If the Mint were to produce 750 million of such coins in a year's time, the seigniorage would be a remarkable down payment on the rebuilding of the World Trade Center, which cost an estimated \$350 million per tower to construct when completed in 1973.

To accomplish this, a bill would have to be introduced in the Senate and House, passed by both chambers, and approved by the President. Modestly, here's my proposal to do just that:

2002 CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY EXPOSITION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, next week the entire construction and construction materials industries are holding a convention, the CONEXPO-CON/AGG, in Las Vegas, NV. More than 125,000 people are expected to attend and over 2,300 exhibitors covering will show their construction material and equipment in 1.9 billion net square feet of indoor and outdoor exhibit space. This convention is one of the best as it draws contractors and construction materials producers from around the world.

Several organizations associated with these events, are conducting their annual conventions in Las Vegas: The Association of Equipment Manufacturers; the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, the America Road and Transportation Builders Association; the Associated General Contractors of America; the Construction Materials Recycling Association; the Concrete Sawing and Drilling Association; the International Road Federation; the National Fluid Power Association; the National Utility Contractors Association and the Society of Automotive Engineers. I congratulate them for the work they do to keep America moving.

Some important facts about these industries should be noted. The construction industry represents 8 percent of our Nation's gross domestic product and accounts for 5 percent of total U.S. employment. The construction industry puts more than \$850 billion of products in place annually and employs more than 8.6 million people. Even in a recession, the construction and construction materials industries added 63,000 jobs. These numbers are staggering and impressive and result from the very successful TEA 21 Act that funds the federal highway road program.

These are America's builders. Through their hard work, the wilderness that was America was transformed into a stronghold of productivity and commerce.

These groups build our roads and highways, airports, and rail beds—the networks that connect our cities, our communities, and our families. They build our homes, our workplaces, our churches, our schools, and our hospitals.

They build and maintain our utilities, including water and sewer facilities, natural gas pipelines and telecommunications systems. They build these underground lifelines that keep America secure and thriving.

Not only do they build—they rebuild. In the true spirit of America they responded after September 11 by sending manpower, materials, equipment, and money to the New York City World Trade Center and the Pentagon to help heal the wounds inflicted on America by the terrorist attacks. Members of these associations continue their efforts to erase these scars that mar our landscape.

The construction and construction materials industries have built Americans' a quality of life and ensured a prosperous future for our country and its people.

We all take pride in the work these "Builders of America" do every day. On the eve of CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2002, we extend our sincerest thanks and best wishes to the construction and construction materials industries for a successful trade shows that is "An Experience to Build On."

CLASS ACTION FAIRNESS ACT OF
2002

SPEECH OF

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2341) to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants, to outlaw certain practices that provide inadequate settlements for class members, to assure that attorneys do not receive a disproportionate amount of settlements at the expense of class members, to provide for clearer and simpler information in class action settlement notices, to assure prompt consideration of interstate class actions, to amend title 28, United States Code, to allow the application of the principles of Federal diversity jurisdiction to interstate class actions, and for other purposes.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Chairman, in an age when corporate wrongdoing is a daily front page headline, now is not the time for

Congress to bend the rules that allow injured consumers and workers access to the civil justice system.

Proponents of H.R. 2341 insist that a class action crisis threatens the well being of U.S. courts this is simply not true. There is no statistical evidence of a class action crisis. In fact, the Federal and State judiciaries have consistently opposed efforts to "federalize" class actions believing that state courts are perfectly capable of handling their own matters without interference from the Federal judiciary. There is simply no need for massive civil justice reform, especially reform like H.R. 2341 that limits the rights of consumers to seek redress against wrongdoers.

Currently, class action suits provide access to justice for thousands of American consumers and small businesses that would otherwise have no realistic means of taking their case to court. Unfortunately this legislation is an attempt to deny American consumers and small businesses by making plaintiffs jump through multiple hurdles to bring class actions, allowing proponents of this bill to accomplish their policy goal at the expense of consumers who have been harmed by corporate wrongdoers.

Today we are given the opportunity to make a clear choice between the legal rights of powerful corporations that break the rules, and the legal rights of the families, retirees and consumers they harm. Today we cannot turn our backs on those who depend on us. Today we must stand up for those who stand the greater harm by opposing H.R. 2341.

CONGRATULATIONS, GIRL SCOUTS,
ON 90 YEARS OF WONDERFUL
SERVICE

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Girl Scouts of America. In March 1912, Juliette Gordon Low, a visionary from Savannah, GA, formed an organization that has become the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls.

Girl Scouting encourages girls to develop their full potential, to believe in themselves, to respect others, and to make a contribution to the world around them. In an accepting and nurturing environment, girls build character and skills for success in the real world. In partnership with committed adults, girls develop qualities that will serve them all of their lives—like strong values, a social conscience and conviction about their own potential and self worth.

The Girl Scout Council of Southeast Louisiana provides a positive impact on our entire region by the services and activities they provide. I salute the adult troop leaders who volunteer their time to serve as role models for the thousands of Girl Scouts in our community. As the father of a Brownie, I see first hand the enjoyment and enrichment that Girl Scouting provides.

Could Juliette Gordon Low have known in 1912 when she sold her pearls to give Girl Scouting financial backing that millions of girls would benefit from her generosity? She would

be proud to know that Girl Scouting is still going strong and shaping lives. Congratulations Girl Scouts on 90 years of wonderful service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "GENOMIC
RESEARCH AND DIAGNOSTIC AC-
CESSIBILITY ACT OF 2002" H.R.
3967 AND THE "GENOMIC SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION
ACT OF 2002" H.R. 3966

HON. LYNN N. RIVERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, evidence is mounting that the patenting of human genes is both inhibiting important biomedical research and interfering with patient care. Today I am introducing two bills that address these increasingly troublesome effects of human gene patenting.

Despite resistance from many of our European allies and the popular view in this country that owning the rights to a part of the human body is inappropriate and even immoral, patenting of human genetic sequences is accelerating rapidly. Eight thousand patents on genes or genetic material have already been issued by the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO), including at least 1,500 on human genetic material. Tens of thousands of additional human gene patents await examination by the PTO. And while the criteria for awarding gene patents have been marginally tightened in recent years, progress toward patenting of the entire human genetic sequence continues unabated. There is little doubt that most of the significant claims on our genetic code will be tied up as private property within a very few years.

What does it mean to own a human gene patent? It means that the gene patent holder controls any use of "its" gene, a gene that is found in virtually every human being on the planet. The patent holder can prevent my doctor from looking in my body to see if I have that gene. The patent holder can prevent anyone else from doing research to improve a genetic test or to develop a gene therapy based on that gene.

PTO's grant of total ownership in genes has already led to some very unusual moral and medical dilemmas. In one well-publicized case, Miami Children's Hospital—the owner of the gene responsible for the fatal neurological disorder Canavan disease—is being sued by the families of dead and dying children who provided the tissue samples which enabled the hospital's researchers to discover the gene's function. The Canavan parents had sought the help of hospital researchers in order to develop testing that was accessible and affordable to the public. Instead, when Miami Children's Hospital discovered the Canavan gene, it secretly filed a patent and now prevents doctors from testing or examining patients for the gene without paying the hospital a fixed royalty fee, even though those doctors could do so without using any product or device invented by MCH. The Canavan families claim that the terms under which the hospital is licensing use of the gene are slowing progress into finding a cure or therapy for the disease.

In another example, several European laboratories have refused to recognize—and are attempting to overturn—a patent held by a U.S. company on a gene that is strongly linked to breast and ovarian cancer. The patent holder requires that all tests be shipped to its lab in the United States under the theory that it has the most accurate genetic test available. However, at least one European lab found additional mutations for which the patent holder was not testing. European geneticists claim that the testing fee charged by the patent holder (\$2,680) is exorbitant, since they can offer an even more sophisticated test for half that price, and that the terms of the gene license are choking off discovery of other medically important mutations of the gene.

In yet another example, a U.S. firm obtained a patent on a gene by specifying its sequence and its possible importance in a number of diseases. The firm did not mention AIDS in its patent application. Several research groups subsequently discovered the gene's importance in the AIDS infection mechanism. These groups now have to deal with the gene's patent holder to develop their discoveries, even though that owner had no idea of the gene's relevance to AIDS. In a final example, Jonathan Shestack, the producer of the movie *Air Force One*, began raising money to fund autism researchers. He learned that progress was slow because certain researchers were hoarding patients' tissue samples. They wanted to be the first ones to find the gene and gain commercially.

These and other similar results from the patenting of human genes have led many in the medical and religious communities to conclude that patents should simply not be granted on human genetic sequences. Prohibiting gene patents would of course require a major change to the patent law, an unlikely outcome given the biotechnology industry's strenuous assertion that gene patents are essential to genetic and medical innovation. This is an interesting but debatable proposition. The two bills that I am introducing today, however, do not directly challenge the viability or legality of gene patents. What I seek to do, rather, is to carve out some limited exemptions to the applicability of gene patents. These exemptions are designed to minimize some of the negative impacts of patents on the practice of medicine and the advancement of science. They aim to broaden the availability and usefulness of gene-based diagnostics in the overall health care system, while allowing essential medical progress to continue unabated.

The "Genomic Research and Diagnostic Accessibility Act of 2002" has three major provisions.

RESEARCH EXEMPTION

Section 2 exempts from patent infringement those individuals who use patented genetic sequence information for non-commercial research purposes. This provision would apply to all genetic sequence patents, not just human gene patents. Contrary to the understanding of many scientists, patent law does not protect from patent infringement scientists doing basic, fundamental, non-commercial research when they use patented tools, techniques, and materials. Surveys performed by researchers at Stanford University have shown that many universities and hospitals are avoiding promising genetic research areas because of patent infringement concerns. Another study published earlier this year in the *Journal of the*

American Medical Association found that a majority of geneticists are being denied access to colleagues' data. The *JAMA* study concluded that withholding data may hinder scientists' ability to replicate the results of published studies and to pursue their own research, and may hurt the education of new scientists. Creating a research exemption would make genetic patent law comparable to copyright law, which has a "fair use" defense that permits socially valuable uses without a license.

It is important to note that this section would not overturn the commercial rights of patent holders. If a research utilizing the exemption makes a commercially viable finding, he or she would still have to negotiate any rights to market the new discovery with the patent holder.

DIAGNOSTIC USE EXEMPTION

Section 3 would exempt medical practitioners utilizing genetic diagnostic tests from patent infringement remedies. This section builds on a provision in patent law, enacted in 1996 after its passage in the House by an overwhelming majority, which exempts health care providers from patent infringement suits when they use a patented medical or surgical procedure. The 1996 law was authored by two legislators/doctors—Representative GANSKE and Senator FRIST—and eliminated the distasteful possibility that doctors would use a less safe surgical procedure rather than risk infringing a patent.

Some biotechnology companies and researchers argue that monopolistic control of genetic diagnostic tests is essential. They claim that without significant investment—investment made possible only by the prospect of total control of the diagnostic revenues—the tests never would have been developed in the first place.

This argument begs the question of whether current patenting policies are in fact serving the broader interests of patients. In my view, they are not. Costs for patented tests can become prohibitive, especially when licensing fees are stacked through a series of tests. Negotiating licenses and fees can be time-consuming and can limit genuine medical progress. And most importantly, control of testing protocols and results in a single laboratory can retard medical knowledge, which has historically progressed through the free exchange of information among the entire medical community. The prospect of owning a profitable genetic test may indeed drive some early innovation, but monopolistic control of a genetic test will ultimately stifle innovation.

I have referred to some of the problems that patents have caused in the field of genetic diagnostics. In a February 7, 2002 article in the journal *Nature*, four U.S. bioethicists concluded that "gene patents affect the cost and availability of clinical-diagnostic testing." One of the authors, Mildred Cho from Stanford University, has conducted broader surveys suggesting that nearly half of all diagnostic labs have been forced to quit doing certain tests because of gene patents. This is not an outcome that promotes broad, fairly priced diagnostic medicine.

I believe that the interests of patients and the overall health care system in this country will be far better served if laboratories, universities, and the private sector are free to use patented information for the development of diagnostics tests. To those who argue that

medical innovation will be stifled by this approach, I would point out that surgeons have been refining their techniques for centuries without patent protection. Furthermore, many genetic advances have and will continue to be made without the allure of profits. Dr. Francis Collins discovered and patented a cystic fibrosis gene at the University of Michigan over ten years ago. Dr. Collins, the current director of the Federal gene-mapping effort, was not motivated by profits and neither was the university. That test is broadly licensed today at a nominal fee and remains an easily affordable service available to thousands of expectant parents.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

Section 4 of the bill would require public disclosure of genomic sequence information contained within a patent application when federal funds were used in the development of the invention. The data would be released within 30 days of patent filing, rather than the current 18 months.

This provision is one that should be applied broadly to federally funded research programs, although I have limited it to genomic data in this bill. Legislation enacted in the 1980's enabled universities and small businesses to patent discoveries made with federal funding—a change in patent law that has driven much high-technology innovation in the U.S. economy. Section 4 would not affect the patent rights of these universities and small businesses. It would, however, require that genetic data in a patent application be disclosed promptly through normal scientific channels, both to preclude wasteful duplication of effort by other research teams and to promote broad dissemination. Since the public funded the research, it seems only reasonable that the patent applicant be asked to share the publicly funded results as broadly and as quickly as possible.

THE "GENOMIC SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION ACT OF 2002"

This bill provides for an in-depth study by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy on the impact of Federal policies, especially patent policies, on the rate of innovation, the cost, and the availability of genomic technologies.

A 5-4 Supreme Court ruling in 1980 opened the door for gene patents, which have been central to the development of the U.S. biotechnology industry. Ever since, except for a few minor changes like the Ganske-Frist amendment, genes and other genetic sequences have been treated pretty much like chemicals by the Patent Office. This is not surprising because the Patent Office responds to the will of the Congress and the courts. What is surprising is that there has been almost no thoughtful or scholarly study of the effect of human gene patenting on either scientific progress or the overall health care system. Do patents serve patients well? Do they help or hinder scientific progress? Do they promote innovation? These are fundamental questions that would perhaps have engaged the attention of the Office of Technology Assessment had the Congress not foolishly abolished it in 1995. The Human Genome Program, who has spent nearly \$100 million over the past 10 years on "Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications" of the genome project, has funded almost nothing in this area. Meanwhile, the Patent Office continues to review and grant patents, almost by blind momentum

alone, without serious consideration of whether these human gene patents are helping us achieve our broader societal goals.

Congress has the ability to change the patent law if it is not serving the public interest. We do so in small or large ways nearly every Congress. It is clearly time to review whether this body of law is working. It is obvious from some of the anecdotes that I have cited that the current system is causing strains. Many labs and universities are steering in the biomedical sciences is becoming increasingly sticky. Genetic tests could become prohibitively costly or inaccessible, or could become engulfed in wasteful, legalistic cross-licensing scrambles.

This bill would direct the OSTP, through the National Academy of Sciences if it wishes, to study these issues, to report to the Congress with its findings, and to lead the development of Federal policies based on these findings. This would be the first systematic study of where human gene patenting policy is taking us, and it is long overdue.

Some may see a contradiction between these two bills—namely, that the second bill calls for a study of problems for which I have already proposed solutions in the first bill. However, I believe there is ample justification for the limited reforms I propose in the “Research and Diagnostic Act” and that in short order these steps will be shown to serve the public good. A decision on whether Congress should make even more dramatic changes to the genetic patenting regime (for example, by making the diagnostic exemption retroactive) should await further study and discussion. The study called for in the second bill would provide us with guidance for those additional steps.

Abraham Lincoln described the patent system as “adding the fuel of interest to the fire of genius”. I am concerned that the current Federal patent policy as applied to genetic sequences may be smothering the fire of genius. Patents are intended to encourage openness and to prevent trade secrets. Current policy, however, appears to be inhibiting research and information sharing, and choking off innovation and the broad availability of novel genetic technologies. I hope that the two bills being introduced today will serve to focus attention on these issues. More importantly, I hope that they will ensure that the fantastic advances in medical genetics are fully harnessed for the benefit not just of patent holders, but also of the broader public.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
FIRE-FIGHTER GERALD L.
BAPTISTE—LADDER NO. 9

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, as a Tribute to Firefighter Gerald L. Baptiste of Ladder Number 9, a member of the Vulcan's Society and one of the fallen heroes of September 11th, I would like to insert the following proclamation into the record:

Whereas, September 11, 2001 was a day of horror and tragedy that will forever live in the memory of Americans, and;

Whereas, more than 3,000 people from many occupations, nationalities, ethnic

groups, religions and creeds were brutally murdered by terrorists, and;

Whereas, members of the New York City Fire Department, New York City Police Department, Port Authority and other Public Safety Personnel, through their valiant, courageous and heroic efforts saved the lives of thousands under unprecedented destructive circumstances, and;

Whereas, more than 300 New York City Firefighters lost their lives in the effort to save others, and

Whereas, Congressman Major R. Owens and the people of the 11th Congressional District salute the bravery and dedication of all who gave their full measure of devotion, and;

Whereas, we deem it appropriate to highlight the courage and valor of individuals and groups in a variety of forms and ceremonies. Now therefore be it

Resolved: That on this 10th Day of March, Two Thousand and Two, Congressman Major R. Owens, and representatives of the people of the 11th Congressional District, pause to salute the sacrifices of these honored men, and to offer their heartfelt condolences to families of these African American Firefighters who died at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

That the text of this resolution shall be placed in the Congressional Record of the United States House of Representatives.

Given by my hand and seal this 10th day of March, Two Thousand and Two in the Year of our Lord.

TRIBUTE TO GAIL TORREANO

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the contributions of SBC Ameritech Michigan and its President Gail Torreano, as they are both honored on March 22nd by the Oak Park Business and Education Alliance for their outstanding work in the community of Oak Park, Michigan. The Oak Park Business and Education Alliance was established in 1993, and is a nonprofit organization of educators, businesses and government entities that provide assistance to the Oak Park School District to improve the individual education experiences of students and prepare them for the modern workforce.

Ms. Torreano's career and other accomplishments demonstrate her strong commitment to community activism. A graduate of Central Michigan University, she has served as Associate Director of the Michigan Special Olympics in Mount Pleasant. Among the many boards she has served on are the Detroit Chamber of Commerce, Detroit Chapter for the NAACP Fight for Freedom Fund dinner for 2002, Michigan Virtual University, and the Economic Club of Detroit.

SBC Ameritech Michigan has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards including the Michigan Deaf Association “Employer of the Year” in 2001 for their contribution to the professional growth and development of its deaf and hard of hearing employees. They also received the highest commendation from the NAACP 2001 Telecommunications Report Card—a program aimed at measuring corporate America's commitment to people of color. In addition, the American Society on Aging and the National Minority Supplier Development Council named SBC “Corporation of the Year” in 2000.

Ms. Torreano's and SBC's commitment and support of the communities where they serve is, indeed, commendable.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the commitment of SBC Ameritech Michigan and its President, Gail Torreano, to the community of Oak Park and the Business and Education Alliance.

CHINA'S MILITARY EXPANSION

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue of utmost importance to our national security. On Tuesday, March 5th, the Washington Post reported the People's Republic of China has increased its military spending by over 17% for the second consecutive year.

As I have pointed out many times on the House Floor, China's desire is for complete dominance and hegemony in the Asian-Pacific region.

Communist China's attempts to build a nuclear arsenal capable of defeating the United States are undeniable. In that regard, the addition of multiple independently targeted re-entry vehicles is the PRC's most significant threat to the United States. This targeted spending increase is clearly designed to close the nuclear gap that exists between the United States and China.

China's military buildup is especially disconcerting considering its much publicized goal of controlling Taiwan. Mr. Speaker, as you know, China has said it will take back Taiwan by whatever means necessary. Along these lines, Chinese military leaders have openly questioned whether the United States would be willing to sacrifice Los Angeles in our attempts to protect Taipei. We must be prepared to defend ourselves against this type of overt aggression.

Mr. Speaker, this is why I have been so vehement in articulating the need to act decisively to build a ballistic missile defense. The fact that our country remains completely vulnerable to a ballistic missile attack is a reflection of our lack of political will to build an adequate defense. The technology for a ballistic missile defense is available, and has been for years and even decades. It is obvious China will neither lay aside its obsessive quest to build and maintain an offensive nuclear missile program, nor cut its massive military spending. There is only one acceptable response to this threat. We need to fully fund a robust ballistic missile defense program, encompassing a variety of technologies and defenses, and we must accomplish this without delay.

Mr. Speaker, at this point in the Record I submit the text of the March 5th article to which I have been referring. I commend this article to our colleagues and all observers of these proceedings.

[From the Washington Post Foreign Service, Mar. 5, 2002]

CHINA RAISES DEFENSE BUDGET AGAIN

(By John Pomfret)

BEIJING.—China will announce another 17 percent rise in defense spending this week, completing a one-third increase in acknowledged military expenditures over the last

two years, Chinese and other Asian sources said today.

The increase reflects Beijing's ambition to build a powerful military to complement its robust economy and underpin its strategic position in Asia. But despite more than a decade of big jumps in the defense budget, Asian and Western military officers and Chinese sources said the 2.5-million-member People's Liberation Army, the largest standing fighting force in the world, is struggling with its modernization program, handicapped by low pay, poor morale and difficulty absorbing new weapons.

Finance Minister Xiang Huaicheng will announce an increase of around 17.6 percent in defense spending when he details China's budget on Wednesday during a meeting of the legislature, Chinese sources, Asian diplomats and Chinese-language media reports said. China increased defense spending by 17.7 percent last year; the jump this year will bring its publicly acknowledged defense budget to \$20 billion.

China's real defense spending, including funds expended but not reported, is considered the highest in Asia, considerably more than the \$45 billion spent annually by Japan. By comparison, the Bush administration has proposed a \$379 billion defense budget for the next fiscal year.

Beijing explained its increase last year as a response to "drastic changes" in the military situation around the world, a reference to the U.S.-led war in Kosovo in 1999. This year, sources said, Beijing needs more money to bolster its nuclear forces following the Bush administration's decision to withdraw from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and continue work on a missile defense system.

China has often voiced concern that, if the United States builds a missile shield, the Chinese nuclear force would lose its strategic deterrent without more and better warheads and delivery vehicles.

China's main modernization efforts, however focus on turning the People's Liberation Army from an army of farmers into a modern, streamlined fighting force and to abandon the People's War doctrine, which involves basic guerrilla tactics in favor of more traditional doctrines used by world powers.

The goal, according to Pentagon reports, is to become a "regional hegemon," project Chinese power into any corner of Asia, protect sea lanes for Chinese oil, replace the United States as the preeminent power in the region and use Chinese power to guarantee reunification with Taiwan.

To do so, China has embarked on a shopping spree for weapons from Russia, Israel and South Africa and a worldwide hunt for technology to improve its nuclear weapons and rocketry programs. China was the world's biggest arms importer in 2000, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. It will probably be so again in 2001 and 2002, analysts say.

Starting in 1997, China shed 500,000 troops from the army, transferring them to the People's Armed Police, which deals with internal security. It has also launched an ambitious program to enhance training, education and living standards for the men and women currently in uniform.

Chinese analysts consider morale a major problem for the army. One Western military attache who has had links with the Chinese military since the 1980s described the army as facing a "spiritual crisis."

"It has lost its revolutionary elan," he said. "It is no longer a tough, ragtag force of

creative and motivated guerrilla fighters. It has become rigid, bureaucratized and slow."

Morale problems are reflected regularly in the People's Liberation Army Daily, the army's newspaper, where complaints about bad pay, lack of vacation time and poor training are routine. Last week, the military, responding to years of complaints, promised to increase its rations budget by 20 percent, the newspaper reported.

Once a route out of the countryside for smart young men, the army no longer can attract the talent it needs, Chinese sources said, because other opportunities have arisen with economic reforms. Among the upper levels of society, an army career is almost a joke. Practically no students from Beijing or Qinghua universities, China's most prestigious, consider a career in the military, which pays a colonel less than \$350 a month.

Reform-minded senior Chinese military officers regularly compare the army to a state-owned enterprise burdened by aging, untrainable workers. "What can you do with someone who is 45 and has grown up in the old PLA?" said one Chinese major general. "There are thousands of people like this. Many are officers, and because we can't do anything with them, our younger officers are angry and leaving the service."

A good percentage of training, up to 30 percent in some cases, is taken up with political indoctrination, Chinese sources said. "Political reform is not just necessary for the economy to grow faster," said one former officer who recently left the army because it lacked opportunities. "It's a prerequisite for military modernization, too."

As a result, Chinese soldiering suffers. Western military officers in Beijing said one reason China is so reticent about participating in U.N. peacekeeping is that its units are incapable of operating independently.

In peacekeeping, the basic unit is a platoon, about 10 to 20 troops. "But they cannot function as a platoon," said a Western officer. "Once they are detached from the mother ship, they freeze up. In peacekeeping, if you don't have smart people commanding your small units, the situation can turn catastrophic very fast."

More broadly, the PLA's reputation still has not recovered from the killings around Tianamen Square during the pro-democracy demonstrations of 1989. The PLA's efforts to save people during floods in the summer of 1999 helped for a while. But, simultaneously, many stories arose of local military leaders leading smuggling rings.

Jokes about corruption in the military and its obsession with politics are now routine. When Japanese Self-Defense Forces sank an intruding vessel, believed by Tokyo to be a North Korean spy boat, inside China's 200-mile exclusive economic zone in December, China's navy did not dispatch a ship to monitor the incident. "They must have been busy," the punch line went, "studying the 'Three Represents' [the latest political philosophy of President Jiang Zemin] or smuggling."

China's military acquisitions have been substantial. Recent Russian weapon and equipment sales have included 72 Su-27 fighter-ground attack aircraft; 100 S-300 surface-to-air missiles; 10 II-76 transport aircraft; four Kilo-class submarines and two Sovremenny-class destroyers. China has also signed a contract to assemble at least 200 more Su-27s at the Shenyang Aircraft Corp. in northeastern China.

But an Asian military officer estimated that 60 percent of the Su-27s cannot fly, ei-

ther because they are broken or because the pilots lack the skill to fly them. "Their men are 20 years behind ours in terms of their skill at handling and repairing these sophisticated machines," he said. "This gap in personnel is not easily closed."

China's purchases of the Sovremenny-class destroyers were touted as another sign of Beijing's new ability to project force and challenge U.S. influence in Asia. But attempts to purchase an early warning radar system failed in July 2000 when the United States blocked Israel from selling China an II-76 aircraft equipped with AWACS-style radar, a system Israel calls the Phalcon.

"Without the Phalcon," said a Western attache, "the Sovremenny is a sitting duck."

Mr. Speaker, while China's military expansion poses a real threat to the United States, we have the technology to build a real missile defense shield, and should be directing the necessary funds to build and deploy such a system without delay.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ANN SHEETS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 14, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I pay tribute today to Ann Sheets, an incredible woman who tragically passed on much too soon. She was loved by each and every person whose life she touched, and will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her. She was a person of unquestioned integrity and of unparalleled morality, and it is my hope that her life will serve as a model to the many children she so lovingly taught, as she is truly an inspiration to us all. As her family mourns her loss, I believe it is appropriate to remember Ann and pay tribute to her for her warm heart, and her many contributions to her community and her state.

Ann lived her life in a manner befitting the friendship and love bestowed upon her by her colleagues, students, friends and family. She was raised in Steamboat Springs, where she graduated from high school. She went to work at Junction Square, where she continued to work while attending college at Mesa State. Eventually, Ann became a librarian at Chatfield Elementary School, where her love for children and education enabled her to excel, and make her a favorite with everyone involved in the school. She was able to touch the lives of students each and every day by sharing her love of reading. It is no small feat to turn children on to reading, but Ann was able to do it with the same ease and grace that was the hallmark of her life.

Mr. Speaker, we are all terribly saddened by the loss of Ann Sheets, but take comfort in the knowledge that our grief is overshadowed only by the legacy of courage, selflessness and love that she left with all of us. Ann Sheets' life is the very embodiment of all that makes this country great, and I am deeply honored to be able to bring her life to the attention of this body of Congress.

IN HONOR OF GIRL SCOUTS

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Girl Scouts of the USA who are celebrating their 90th anniversary this week. Girl Scouts of the USA is the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls.

There are 3.7 million Girl Scouts—2.7 million young women and 915,000 adult members. The first group of Girl Scouts was organized by Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of the Girl Scouts, on March 12, 1912. The Girl Scouts were chartered by the U.S. Congress on March 16, 1950.

Girl Scouts help girls develop their full individual potential; relate to others with increasing understanding, skill, and respect; and contribute to the improvement of society through their abilities, leadership skills, and cooperation with others. With myriad enriching experiences, such as fields trips, sports, skill-building clinics, community service projects, cultural exchanges, and environmental stewardships, the girls are able to fulfill the Girl Scouts mission.

Please join me in honoring the Girl Scouts for their continued effort in making girls grow stronger and develop their full potential.

ON THE FATE OF LCDR MICHAEL
"SCOTT" SPEICHER, USN, AND
AMERICA'S MISSING IN ACTION

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I am very distraught today over our failure to resolve the disappearance of LCDR Michael Scott Speicher. Commander Speicher was the first American lost in the 1991 gulf war. His F/A-18 Hornet was shot down west of Baghdad in the early morning hours of January 17. After Kuwait was liberated and the tenuous cease-fire agreement reached, the Iraqi Government returned remains of a person that was supposed to be Commander Speicher. DNA and blood type testing would reveal that it was not. Years later, after a debate over whether Commander Speicher was killed in action or simply missing, intelligence sources now believe that Commander Speicher may be alive and a prisoner of Iraq.

America has a moral obligation to every Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine, and Coast Guardsman that it sends into harm's way to accurately determine their fate and expend all efforts to return their remains to their families. Scott Speicher's family doesn't have closure because no search and rescue mission was ever launched. When a covert mission was proposed to go into Iraq in 1994 to investigate the crash site, a senior Pentagon official said, "I do not want to have to write letters home to the parents to tell them that their son or daughter died looking for old bones." Who will write the letter to Scott Speicher's family explaining why he may still be alive?

We cannot trust the Iraqis to help us. The Iraqi government has already failed to deliver

CDR Speicher or his remains at the end of the gulf war; and they delayed an investigation into the crash site until they had time to pick it over. Scott Speicher is the only American unaccounted for from the gulf war, but there are many unaccounted personnel missing from other conflicts. We need to renew our efforts to locate those who gave all in service of their country, and return them to their families.

INTRODUCTION OF WILDFIRE
RESOLUTION**HON. RICHARD W. POMBO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, After seeing the destruction that happened last year during the fires seasons, I concluded that Congress must be prepared to respond to these catastrophic events before the 2002 wildfire season begins.

When forests catch fire, a catastrophic event occurs. These types of fires are extremely intense. The fires literally destroy every sign of life and can rage for thousands of acres. The costs of fighting these fires are astronomical. During the 2001 wildfire season, 81,681 fires burned 3,555,138 acres that killed 15 firefighters and threatened rural communities nationwide. The year before in 2000, more than 7.4 million acres burned—equivalent to a 6-mile-wide swath from Washington, DC to Los Angeles, CA. These fires destroyed 861 structures and cost the Federal government \$1.3 billion in suppression programs.

Quite simply, our Federal strategy to handle catastrophic wildfire is not adequately addressing a looming crisis. The Federal Government must take action to prevent the loss of wildlife habitat and protect rural communities.

This is why I am asking you to please join me in cosponsoring this Wildfire Resolution expressing the Sense of the U.S. Congress to: (1) fully implement the Western Governors Association "Collaborative 10-year Strategy for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment" and (2) to prepare a National Prescribed Fire Strategy that minimizes risks of escape. America needs to know Congress understands the forest-health crisis is causing these fires and that Congress is taking action.

In managing our forests, it is very important to remember that they are in constant transformation. A particular forest now will look much different in 10 years, and in about 50 years will not even look like the same forest. Sometimes a forest can get overpopulated with trees.

While some trees become diseased creating enormous amount of fuel that leads to catastrophic fires.

Reducing forest density and improving the ability of healthy forests to survive expansive wildfires must become the No. 1 priority for Federal forest managers. This is not a timber industry issue—it is a forest-health issue. Thinning practices necessary to ensure our forests are able to survive future catastrophic wildfires must begin without further delay.

It is time for Members of Congress to set aside political rhetoric and make the tough decisions necessary to end catastrophic losses of wildlife habitat, forest resources and most

importantly, human lives on all Federal forest lands. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

IN HONOR OF JASON DEAN
CUNNINGHAM**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the heroic memory of Air Force Senior Airman Jason Dean Cunningham, who died March 4, 2002, during a firefight with America's enemies in the mountains of eastern Afghanistan. Airman Cunningham is to be laid to rest today in Arlington National Cemetery.

Jason lived briefly in my district with his wife, Theresa, and her parents, Lucy and Lito DeCastro, in Camarillo, CA. Jason's parents, Lawrence Dean and Jackie Cunningham, hail from Gallup, NM. Theresa joined the Navy after graduating from Rio Mesa High School and met Jason while both were stationed in Italy.

At that time, Jason also served in the Navy. He switched to the Air Force 2½ years ago to become a pararescueman—a paramedic who has trained at a special forces level. Jason underwent 2 years of intense training in airborne, scuba and survival schools, search and rescue, and, of course, medical training to join this elite group of lifesavers. He was assigned to the 38th Rescue Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, near Valdosta, GA.

By all accounts, Jason was a dedicated and skilled airman, and a dedicated and loving family man. He and Theresa have two daughters, Kyla, 4, and Hannah, 2.

On March 4, he and six others died trying to rescue a Navy SEAL. It is important to remember them as well, for they fought by Jason's side and will be with him for all eternity: Sgt. Bradley Crose, 22, of Orange Park, Florida; Spc. Marc A. Anderson, 30, of Brandon, Florida; Pfc. Matthew A. Commons, 21, of Boulder City, Nevada; Petty Officer 1st Class Neil Roberts, 32, of Woodland, California; Tech. Sgt. John A. Chapman, 36, of Windsor Locks, Connecticut; and Army Sgt. Philip J. Svitak, 31, of Joplin, Missouri.

Jason is the second serviceman from my district to die in Afghanistan since the hostilities began. Special Forces Staff Sgt. Brian Cody Prosser of Frazier Park, CA, died in Afghanistan in December. Considering the relatively low casualty rate so far, that's a high percentage for a congressional district. But the people in my district were patriotic long before September 11. They believe strongly in freedom and know deep in their hearts that freedom often comes with a price. Jason and Brian joined the military to protect their families, friends and neighbors from America's enemies. We forever will be grateful.

Mr. Speaker, we are deeply saddened by the loss of Jason Dean Cunningham but our resolve is strong. Our enemies must know that when they attack us they will be destroyed.

I ask my colleagues to join me in sending our heartfelt sympathy to Jason's family and to all those who have lost loved ones in the pursuit of freedom.

HONORING OUR NATION'S FARMERS AND CELEBRATING NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, next week, March 17, 2002, we celebrate National Agriculture Week. From the apple orchards of upstate New York and cattle ranches of Texas, to the farm belt of the Midwest and rice fields of California, we are a nation built by farmers and ranchers. We take this week to honor those who produce our food and fiber, and to call attention to what needs to be done to protect our agricultural heritage, our way of life and our safe and plentiful food supply. It is the strength of this agricultural community that has made the United States the "bread basket of the world."

My home of California is our nation's most productive agricultural producers, producing more than \$27 billion worth of product each year. The people of our state and nation benefit from this agricultural bounty every day in affordable, high-quality food, fiber, flowers and forest products.

Farmers are good stewards of the land and take pride in their work to protect the environment. Farmers and ranchers care for the land in many ways—from sustainable forestry practices to sound and safe pest management programs and grazing programs.

Farmers are also good conservationists, and have written the book on doing more with less. In the last 30 years, agriculture's share of water has remained constant, but farmers and ranchers have boosted production on a tonnage basis an impressive 67 percent during the same period. Farmers provide habitat for many species of wildlife, including the waterfowl of the Pacific Flyway. Many farmers are working towards better and more environmentally friendly methods of pest control—such as box homes for bats and barn owls, or pest resistant plants and bacteria that combat pests while reducing the reliance on pesticides.

In addition to their environmental benefits, farmers, ranchers, vintners and other members of the agricultural community are an important part of California's economy. A University of California study recently found that farmers generate about \$59 billion in personal income for Californians or 6.6 percent of the state's annual personal income. California agriculture also contributes 1.1 million jobs to the state, about 7 percent of the total workforce.

It is my great honor and pleasure to represent many of the men and women of California Agriculture in this House. Please join me next week in recognizing their contributions and thanking them for all they do to make this great nation what it is today.

HONORING THE GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Girl Scouts of America, who recently celebrated their 90th Anniversary.

Girl Scouting began on March 12, 1912. The founder Juliette Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia, for a local Girl Scout meeting. The group was brought together because of her belief that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally and spiritually.

The Girl Scouts' mission is to help all girls grow strong. To that end, Girl Scouting empowers girls to develop to their full potential; relate positively to others; develop values that provide the foundation for sound decision-making; and contribute to society. Through the years, the Girl Scouts have continued to address contemporary issues affecting girls, while maintaining its core values. The organization's foundation is still based on the Girl Scouts' Promise and Law, just as it was in 1912.

Today, the Girl Scouts of America has a membership of 2.7 million girl members and over 900,000 adult members. In the state of Arkansas the Girl Scouts is 18,000 girl members and 7,000 adult members strong. They promote many beneficial programs, such as in-school scouting, and also promote qualities including diversity and responsibility. This program is one of the few private programs to still teach patriotism and the democratic process. The qualities that girls learn from this organization helps to guarantee a brighter future for Arkansas and the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to honor the Girl Scouts of America.

STATEMENT IN HONOR OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY AND OUR SEPTEMBER 11TH FIREFIGHTERS

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on March 17, 2002 the people of Kansas City will once again participate in the wearing of the Green and celebrate our Irish heritage. The tradition dates back to the 1800's and has grown to the third largest St. Patrick's celebration in the United States. This will be a St. Patrick's Day Parade like no other as participants and spectators will be wearing green, but seeing red, white, and blue. Our honored guests will be members of the New York's Port Authority, Police Department, and Fire Department.

On September 11, 2001, these brave first responders put their lives on the line for individuals in the World Trade Towers and surrounding structures. We at the Capitol watched in horror with the plane attack on Tower II, and felt the impact of the attack on the Pentagon. The world observed the courage and a selflessness of these men and women who rush to danger so that others will survive. Americans watched with pride and tears cognizant of the loss of life and families that would forever be altered.

As a community, we have witnessed the bravery of our own first responders. Kansas Citians along with the rest of our Nation volunteered their services in the 9/11 rescue efforts. Locally, the firefighter's boot became the means for every citizen to contribute to the relief of the 9/11 survivors. I attended the New

York Giants v. Kansas City Chiefs game at Arrowhead Stadium, and witnessed an emotional tribute and the generosity as I, along with my firefighters, collected donations from fans. I consider this a privilege especially after having witnessed the devastation of ground zero. The representatives from New York who are participating in the Kansas City St. Patrick's Day Parade and the people of New York have the respect and admiration of us all.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day, I will participate as one of over 200 entries in the third largest parade in the Nation. As a proud American, I ask that you join the citizens of Kansas City as we salute our heroes of 9/11 and especially our honored guests from New York participating in the parade:

From the Port Authority: Officers Frank Dowd, Bob Moore, Brian Dunwoody, John O'Donnell, and Patrick Harty.

From the New York Police Department: Detective Steve Eizikowitz, Detective Mike Davis, Kevin Douthit, and Patrick Kelly.

From the Fire Department of New York: Lieutenant Joe Huber, Carl Punzone, Bob Fraumeni, and Josh Lomask.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring our first responders throughout the United States, as we observe the courage of St. Patrick.

CONGRATULATING THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA ON THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chairman of the Congressional Scouting Caucus I wish to congratulate the Girl Scouts of the USA on the occasion of their 90th anniversary.

When I was a boy, I thought girls were icky. And as a boy I thought all Girl Scouts did was camp, sell cookies and do crafts. Well, I have dramatically changed my opinion about girls, and the Girl Scouts have changed as well.

Today, the Girl Scouts is three million girls strong, with 900,000 adults volunteers. Girl Scouts now can earn merit badges that develop skills in chemistry, math, marketing, sports, computer science, aerospace and the environment.

The Girl Scouts have developed programs that deal with the real problems young women face today. The Girl Scouts are actively working to discourage teen pregnancy, cultivate girls whose parents are incarcerated, mentor disadvantaged young women and encourage the academic achievement that will be so critical in their future.

These programs expose girls from all walks of life to all the wonderful possibilities open to them in work, play, and service to others. The Girl Scouts develop healthy interests, skills and habits that serve young women for a lifetime.

It is a long, long way from when Juliette Lowe founded the Girl Scouts on March 12 of 1912. But 90 years later the Girl Scouts are still teaching the basic values contained in the Girl Scout law: "to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I

say and do." These basic, timeless values prepare our girls to take on the mantle of leadership as they enter adulthood. And for that, I congratulate the Girl Scouts of America for their invaluable contribution to the success of our girls and the good of America.

THE FALLEN HEROES FLAG ACT
OF 2002, H.R. 3968

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I introduce H.R. 3968, the Fallen Heroes Flag Act of 2002. This Act provides for a flag flown over our Capitol to the immediate family of our nation's brave firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians (EMT's), and to other relief workers whose lives are lost in the line of duty. This Act ensures that our future generations of public servants who may pay the ultimate price for their service to our communities and our nation are accorded the honor, the dignity and respect that they deserve.

As we pass the six-month anniversary of the barbaric terrorist acts perpetrated against the people of our great nation, we are reminded, once again, of the heroic acts of bravery, devotion to duty and self-sacrifice that our firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians and other relief workers rendered to us. Their great heroism was not just exhibited by those who following their rescue efforts, re-entered the crumbling buildings with the certain knowledge that they would pay the ultimate price; but for those who labored at Ground Zero, day after day, searching not only for survivors, but for their brave colleagues and our fellow citizens who perished on that day.

All too often we take our firefighters, law enforcement officers, EMT's, and relief and rescue workers for granted. The events of September 11th provided us with a glimpse into their lives, hard work, excellence, devotion to public service and to our communities that our brave public servants give each and every day. We must never forget the great service that they provide to our nation!

Mr. Speaker, as is customary with our fallen military heroes, this act will provide the immediate family member of our fallen public servants with the symbol of our great nation—our flag, as a tribute for the respect, admiration and appreciation that must be accorded to our brave firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians and our relief and rescue workers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Accordingly, I urge all of our colleagues to join as co-sponsors of the Fallen Heroes Flag Act of 2002, as our way of honoring the work and lives of our brave, devoted and dedicated fallen heroes.

H.R. 3968

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fallen Heroes Flag Act of 2002".

SEC. 2. PROVIDING CAPITOL-FLOWN FLAGS FOR FAMILIES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RESCUE WORKERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—At the request of the immediate family of a fire fighter, law enforcement officer, emergency technician, or other rescue worker who died in the line of duty, the Representative of the family may provide the family with a Capitol-flown flag, together with the certificate described in subsection (c).

(b) NO COST TO FAMILY.—A flag provided under this section shall be provided at no cost to the family.

(c) CERTIFICATE.—The certificate described in this subsection is a certificate which is signed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Representative providing the flag, and which contains an expression of sympathy from the House of Representatives for the family involved, as prepared and developed by the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "Capitol-flown flag" means a United States flag flown over the United States Capitol in honor of the deceased individual for whom such flag is requested; and

(2) the term "Representative" includes a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

SEC. 3. REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the date of the enactment of this Act, the Clerk shall issue regulations for carrying out this Act, including regulations to establish procedures (including any appropriate forms, guidelines, and accompanying certificates) for requesting a Capitol-flown flag.

(b) APPROVAL BY COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION.—The regulations issued by the Clerk under subsection (a) shall take effect upon approval by the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated from the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for fiscal year 2003 and each succeeding fiscal year such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect October 1, 2002, except that no flags may be provided under section 2 until the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives approves the regulations issued by the Clerk of the House of Representatives under section 3.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE EDITH
BRISKER VILLAGRIGO

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness and deep respect in paying tribute to a woman with the courage to envision a peaceful world. Mrs. Edith Brisker Villagrigo passed away on Sunday, August 26, 2001, in Silver Spring, MD.

Mrs. Villagrigo's commitment and dedication to peace in the world, as well as to other issues affecting women spanned for more than four decades.

Mrs. Villagrigo immigrated to the United States from Gomel, Russia, in the 1920s. Her long record of activism began with union organizing in Chicago, Illinois, and Pittsburgh, PA.

A visionary and advocate for peace, Mrs. Villagrigo helped lead the Women Strike for Peace organization, opposed the Vietnam War and challenged the Nixon administration and its policies by protesting at the Washington Monument.

In the 1980s, she fought for peace on an even broader scale, helping to lead protests against Star Wars and nuclear proliferation. Her passion inspired us all.

Mrs. Villagrigo's death represents a tremendous loss to the peace community as well to her family, friends, admirers, and supporters. But as we mourn her death, we also remember the legacy of hope and inspiration Edith left behind as a true leader and voice for peace.

Her passion and mission for peace show us how one person's vision, dreams and actions can inspire and make a difference for all who seek peace in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the late Mrs. Villagrigo's children, her sister, her grandchildren, her friends and supporters throughout the world.

To Mrs. Villagrigo—may the world receive the love, peace, and compassion you gave it. God Bless.

IN HONOR OF UCI UNDER-
GRADUATE SCIENCE STUDENTS

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor eight undergraduate science students from the University of California, Irvine for their award-winning work at the student poster competition at the American Association for the Advancement of Science's (AAAS) Annual Meeting.

Biological sciences majors Rafael Gonzalez, Matilde Gonzalez, Sylvia Jaramillo, and psychology major Bonnie Sue Poytress won first place recognition for their posters. Biological science majors Cheryse Furman, Kathi Lynn Hamor, David Hernandez, and Sarah Lopez earned honorable mentions for their entries.

The AAAS is the world's largest organization of scientists. The AAAS Annual Meeting offered an interdisciplinary blend of more than 130 symposia, plenary and topical lectures, poster presentations and exhibits. The poster session included about 300 posters presented by national and international undergraduate and graduate students.

Scientific posters provide a visual snapshot of a research project, using a brief amount of text and extensive visuals to explain the work. These posters are usually presented with others of a similar topic and are judged for the quality and originality of the data.

I am extremely proud to represent such talented minds! Please join me in honoring these eight UCI undergraduate students for their hard work and achievements.

REMARKS ON CHINA

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, our government's consideration of China as a force for peace among its neighbors is impossible to substantiate and is overwhelmingly refuted by the facts. Our own good intentions are not sufficient to overcome the fact that China is a force for war, building up its military strength in warlike preparations aimed at its Asian neighbors such as Taiwan, and extending to the United States.

Policies of engagement with China do not excuse a lack of diligence by the United States over China's ballistic missile threat and arms buildup, as well as its failure to abide by non-proliferation agreements such as the one it signed in November 2000 to halt the sale of ballistic missiles and technology for the delivery of weapons of mass destruction.

In February 2002 Secretary of State Colin Powell noted how China's proliferation of ballistic missiles remained "an irritation in the relationship" between it and the United States. This irritation understates China's reliance on ballistic missiles as a key component of its military power, including their use as precision weapons capable of deep penetration without the delivery of weapons of mass destruction—conventional warfare.

In February 2002 CIA Director George Tenet, in testimony before the U.S. Senate, warned about China's increasing military power, saying,

Over the past year, Beijing's military training exercises have taken on an increasingly real-world focus, emphasizing rigorous practice in operational capabilities and improving the military's actual ability to use force.

Mr. Tenet added,

This is aimed not only at Taiwan but also at increasing the risk to the United States itself in any future Taiwan contingency. China also continues to upgrade and expand the conventional short-range ballistic missile force it has arrayed against Taiwan.

Mr. Tenet noted the link between China's threat to Taiwan and its threat to the United States.

I believe this House and our nation's president recognize the link between China's threat to Taiwan and the United States. In his question-and-answer session with Chinese students at Qinghua University in Beijing, when asked why he did not use the term "reunification" with China and Taiwan, President George W. Bush responded by referring to the Taiwan Relations Act, "which says we will help Taiwan defend herself if provoked."

The United States must be wary of China's subtle rhetoric. The PLA understands only one language—the language of military strength to force one's will upon another, just as communism was forced on China through the barrel of a gun as stated by Mao Zedong. While China may cloak its intent in soft words of diplomacy, in 1995 and 1996 it launched ballistic missiles off the coast of Taiwan in a show of force to intimidate it and the Far East.

China's diplomatic overtures to Taiwan lack sincerity. Vice Premier Qian Qichen's remarks on Taiwan in January 2002, supposedly ex-

tending goodwill to Taiwan and interest in holding talks, were apparently intended as propaganda to divide Taiwan's president from his party, and create an impression of goodwill in advance of our president's visit.

Shortly after Qian's remarks, China's Vice Foreign Minister Li Zhao-xing firmly repeated China's demand that Taiwan accept China's view of "one China" before it would negotiate with Taiwan's duly elected democratic government. He suggested how Qian's remarks did not represent a major softening of China's position and demand for eventual reunification. He further noted how Taiwan would be the most important topic of our Bush's visit.

China's overtures to Taiwan need to be understood in the context of its United Front strategy seeking to isolate Taiwan, and divide Taiwan's ruling DPP party by playing on the economic interests of DPP members who may have business relations with China. In addition, China is continuing to entice Taiwan to invest in it, seeking economic and technological growth.

In his February Senate testimony, Mr. Tenet warned how China's arms buildup directed at Taiwan represented an increasing risk to the United States. What may not be as apparent is how China's buildup of intermediate and long-range ballistic missiles, including the road-mobile, solid-fuel DF-31 ICBM, threaten the United States and U.S. forces in the Pacific.

These intermediate and long-range ballistic missiles form part of China's Long Wall Project as explained by the Taipei Times in May 2001:

The Long Wall Project is aimed at the US, not Taiwan. The Chinese military leadership plans to put longer-range ballistic missiles in the southwestern provinces so that they can cover US military targets in the Pacific . . .

They can fire, for instance, a Dong Feng-31 at a US navy battle group shortly after the group leaves its base in Hawaii. The Long Wall Project is basically a deterrent against the US' fighting forces in the Pacific . . .

While the use of ballistic missiles against U.S. naval vessels may seem implausible, it forms part of China's asymmetrical military strategy, seeking to counter U.S. strengths by exploiting its vulnerabilities. Moreover, it is feasible as should be realized by the accuracies the United States obtained from its Pershing II intermediate-range ballistic missile equipped with a radar-guided terminal seeker.

The United States has no defense against DF-31 ICBM. The U.S. Navy has no defense against the DF-31, nor does it have any defense against China's short and intermediate-range ballistic missiles, which can threaten American forces and bases in the Far East and Pacific.

China's probable attainment of an operational capability with its DF-31 ICBM by the end of December 2001, and its probable deployment of the DF-31 at two or more base in 2001 should be of grave concern to the United States.

China recognizes how the United States and its armed forces are undefended from ballistic missiles, with the exception of the short-range Patriot, which is inadequate against intermediate and long-range ballistic missiles. China plans to exploit this weakness with a maximum of surprise.

To support its use of ballistic missiles in conventional warfare, even against ships,

China has not only developed accurate ballistic missiles, it is building reconnaissance satellites. These satellites include the Ziyuan-1 and Ziyuan-2 earth resource satellites believed to be for observing foreign military forces. The ZY-2, launched on September 1, 2000, is credited with a photographic resolution of about nine feet. Other reconnaissance satellites include the Haiyang-1 (HY-1) ocean color surveillance satellite expected to be launched by June 2002, and its follow on Haiyang-2 (HY-2).

Accurate ballistic missiles and the ability observe U.S. forces from space will give China the potential ability to attack U.S. ships at sea and in port. This capability is being enhanced by China's development of an integrated command and control system called Qu Dian, which relies on its Feng Huo-1 military communications satellite launched on January 26, 2000. Qu Dian, considered a major force multiplier, is similar to the U.S. Joint Tactical Information Distribution System, or JTIDS, and boasts a secure, jam-resistant, high capacity data link communication system for use in tactical combat. In addition to its potential use GPS and Glossnas satellite navigation, has developed its won Beidou navigation satellites.

Along with an integrated command and control system, China's improvements in inertial and satellite-aided navigation of ballistic missiles with potential breakthroughs in ballistic missile terminal guidance will give it a new form of precision attack, faster than relying on cruise missiles or aircraft.

The effect of China's ballistic missiles delivering a surprise blow must not be under-emphasized. This type of attack, capable of being carried out with non-nuclear warheads, represents a new form of conventional warfare for the 21st century. Such an attack could occur in an hour. It could not only result in a major loss of U.S. military strength, it could create a sudden tide of momentum for China's regular forces to successfully challenge the United States.

The only comparison would be the German blitzkrieg unleashed against France in 1940. U.S. forces would be unlikely to respond in an effective manner, especially as the United States has not taken vigorous steps to counter its vulnerability to ballistic missiles.

The January 2002 CIA Report on Foreign Ballistic Missile Threats and Developments noted the transforming effect of China's ballistic missile forces as applied to its buildup of short-range ballistic missiles near Taiwan:

China's leaders calculate that conventionally armed ballistic missiles add a potent new dimension to Chinese military capabilities, and they are committed to continue fielding them at a rapid pace. Beijing's growing short-range ballistic missile force provides China with a military capability that avoids the political and practical constraints associated with the use of nuclear-armed missiles. The latest Chinese SRBMs provide a survivable and effective conventional strike force and expand conventional ballistic missile coverage.

This transformation applies to China's intermediate and long-range ballistic missiles as well, providing China with a capability for threatening the United States and its armed forces.

This development of China's military strategy was noted in the June 2000 Department of Defense Report on China's military power:

Chinese strategists believe that if a war against a technologically superior foe breaks

out, the enemy likely will deploy forces rapidly and then launch a massive air campaign. While the enemy is assembling its forces, there exists a window of opportunity for pre-emptive strike. This approach—"gaining the initiative by striking first"—is viewed as an effective method to offset or negate the advantages possessed by a more advanced military foe.

The only possible defense against China's ballistic missile threat is a strong and effective U.S. ballistic missile defense. This defense, to be effective against China's development of decoys, multiple warheads, and other countermeasures, needs to focus on the deployment of a space-based defense building on the research and development conducted under the Strategic Defense Initiative during the Reagan administration and his successor's administration.

The advantages of a space-based ballistic missile defense include global coverage, boost phase interception, and multiple opportunities for intercepting a ballistic missile. These advantages are not inherent with a ground-based interceptor defense, which is currently under development, which will have limited coverage, no opportunity for boost phase defense, and fewer opportunities for intercepting a missile.

Space-based defenses such as the *Brilliant Pebbles* space-based interceptor and Space Based Laser were shown to be technologically feasible a decade ago, but their programs were either terminated or cutback because of intense political opposition from Congress during your father's administration, or because of opposition from President Clinton who cutback U.S. missile defense programs, especially for space-based defenses like *Brilliant Pebbles*, which he terminated in 1993.

Mr. Speaker, our President's decision to withdraw from the obsolete and violated 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty should have opened the door for the United States to build the most effective ballistic missile defense possible using space as that treaty was especially intended to cutback advanced U.S. ballistic missile defense programs employing space-based defenses such as lasers or interceptors.

In this respect, the amendment by Congress at the end of 2001 that reduced funding for space-based defenses, and cut the Space Based Laser program for fiscal year 2002 from \$170 million to \$50 million must be viewed in a shameful light, a case of seeking an inferior defense at greater cost.

The failure of the Missile Defense Agency to pursue space-based defenses and emphasize their value to Congress is inexcusable. These defenses are not far off into the future. They were shown to be technologically feasible years ago.

In March 2002 China increase its official defense budget by 17.6 percent. This follows a 17.7 percent increase in 2001. These increases follow its five-year plan increasing its stated defense budget 15–20 percent annually. China's actual defense budget has been estimated at three to five times the size of its official budget. These increases are aimed at the United States. China is modernizing its forces to a high-tech military deploying accurate ballistic missiles as the edge of its military transformation.

In contrast, the United States is only beginning to rebuild its military after a protracted decline lasting more than a decade, and this

year's increase is largely attributable to house-keeping matters rather than an effort to modernize U.S. forces, or research and development, or the acquisition of a space-based ballistic missile defense.

The United States must recognize the peril it faces from China's transformational military strategy built around the ballistic missile, a transformation that can be seen in its DF-31 ICBM apparently aimed at U.S. forces.

Mr. Speaker, such an attack from China directed at U.S. forces could come before the end of this year. I would strongly urge you and our colleagues to take immediate action to overcome our vulnerability and include steps toward the support of a space-based ballistic missile defense.

Mr. Speaker, I hereby submit for the RECORD various sources supporting my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I have also submitted these identical observations and conclusions to the President by letter which I have posted today.

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TRIBUTE TO DR. ALEXANDER E. BAILEY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the work of Alexander E. Bailey, Ed.D., as he is honored for his exemplary community work by the Oak Park Business and Education Alliance on March 22, 2002. The Oak Park Business and Education Alliance was established in 1993 and is a non-profit organization of educators, businesses and government entities that provide assistance to the Oak Park School District to improve the educational experience of students.

Dr. Bailey's life of service began in the military, where he was a specialist in the U.S. Army Security Agency. After his military service, Dr. Bailey chose education as his field of study. Dr. Bailey began his career as a teacher at Paul Washington High School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1971, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education; in 1972, he received a Masters of Arts degrees in Counseling; in 1980, he became an Education Specialist, and in 1983, he earned a Doctorate of Education.

He continued his training at Yale University for the Training for School Development program from 1984–1986, as well as attending the University of California for Effective Teaching Strategies, Training for Trainers 1985–1987 and Harvard University for the Institute on Multi-Cultural Education in 1989.

After serving in various educational positions on the east coast he came to Michigan's Oak Park School District. Since 1991, Dr. Bailey has been a dynamic leader of the Oak Park School District serving as the Superintendent. Dr. Bailey is the author of several published works and presentations, some of which include "Strategies for Effective Alternative Education Programs", "Do You Know Your Child?" and "Appeal Motivation That Works."

Dr. Bailey's professional and civic affiliations are numerous, among them the Ethnic Task Force for the city of Oak Park, The Children's Center, African-American Superintendent's Group, the American Personnel and Guidance Association and the Oak Park Business and Education Alliance.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Bailey for his many accomplishments and service to the community of Oak Park and to the Business and Education Alliance.

HONORING DAVID C.G. KERR

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of David C.G. Kerr, a deeply respected lawyer in the Tampa Bay community who recently lost his battle with Lou Gehrig's disease.

David, a veteran of the Korean War, worked at Tampa's Macfarlane, Ferguson and McMullen for nearly 40 years, specializing in

transportation, admiralty and corporate law. He served as lead corporate counsel for a number of key Tampa real estate projects, including Harbour Island, Tampa Palms and the Ice Palace.

David quickly became known for his great intellect and dedication to his job. He successfully argued two cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, one of which established a principle in international admiralty law, and he served as his firm's chairman from 1990 to 1993. David also spent 39 years as general counsel and executive director of the National Juice Products Association, the industry's largest trade association.

David will be remembered across the state for his work outside of the office. He served Florida's business and legal communities in countless ways, as President of Hillsborough County Bar Association in 1967, on the Florida Bar Association's board of directors in 1971, as president of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce in 1979, and chairman of its Committee of 100 in 1977. Later, at the request of Governors Bob Martinez and Lawton Chiles, David headed the Florida Transportation Commission and served as a member of the commission from 1987 to 1999. In this role, David succeeded remarkably in minimizing politics and moving Florida's transportation projects forward.

Closer to home, David was a member of the University of Tampa's Board of Trustees, and was an active member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla.

I will remember David as a wonder role model for young people who desired to succeed in their business or profession and serve the community. David did everything with a dignity and grace that brought out the best in everyone with whom he worked. I am eternally grateful for the constant guidance and encouragement he gave me starting in my years as a teenager. David similarly touched the lives of hundreds of young people.

On behalf of the people of Tampa Bay, I would like to extend my heartfelt sympathies to David's family.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
CAPTAIN VERNON RICHARD—
LADDER NO. 7

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, as a tribute to Captain Vernon Richard of Ladder Number 7, a member of the Vulcan's Society and one of the fallen heroes of September 11th, I would like to insert the following proclamation into the RECORD:

Whereas, September 11, 2001 was a day of horror and tragedy that will forever live in the memory of American, and;

Whereas, More than 3,000 people from many occupations, nationalities, ethnic groups, religions and creeds were brutally murdered by terrorists, and;

Whereas, Members of the New York City Fire Department, New York City Police Department, Port Authority and other Public Safety Personnel, through their valiant, courageous and heroic efforts saved the lives of thousands under unprecedented destructive circumstances, and;

Whereas, More than 300 New York City Firefighters lost their lives in the effort to save others, and;

Whereas, Congressman Major R. Owens and the people of the 11th Congressional District salute the bravery and dedication of all who gave their full measure of devotion, and;

Whereas, We deem it appropriate to highlight the courage and valor of individuals and groups in a variety of forms and ceremonies. Now therefore be it

Resolved: That on this 10th Day of March, Two Thousand and Two, Congressman Major R. Owens, and representatives of the people of the 11th Congressional District, pause to salute the sacrifices of these honored men, and to offer their heartfelt condolences to families of these African American Firefighters who died at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

That the text of this resolution shall be placed in the Congressional Record of the United States House of Representatives.

Given by my hand and seal this 10th day of March, Two Thousand and Two in the Year of our Lord.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained in my Congressional District. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcalls 53, 54, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 63, and 64. I would have voted "no" on Rollcalls 55 and 62.

TOBACCO LIVELIHOOD AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR OUR FARMERS ACT OF 2002

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of the Tobacco Livelihood and Economic Assistance for our Farmers Act of 2002. This bill couples my legislation, the National Youth Smoking Reduction Act—which would allow the Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco—with legislation to end the current tobacco marketing quota program. I would also like to thank my colleague Mr. McIntyre, the sponsor of this bill, for his hard work and leadership.

For someone who never touched a cigarette, I now know a great deal about tobacco. It is an extremely complex issue in which the public health, the needs of farmers, and the rights of Americans must all be taken into consideration. Often, it appears an impossible task to bring the stakeholders together; nevertheless, I am convinced there is a solution. When I introduced the National Youth Smoking Reduction Act last June, it was my intent to put forward the idea that we could devise a regulatory scheme to keep tobacco products away from those too young to legally purchase them while simultaneously maintaining the rights of adults to make their own decisions regarding tobacco use. This bill expands upon that concept by demonstrating that a solution for our farmers is complementary to the other elements of this debate.

For centuries, tobacco has been a cornerstone of the agricultural economy of the Commonwealth of Virginia and other tobacco growing states. American tobacco has always been regarded as the highest quality tobacco available. Despite this fact, American growers are increasingly vulnerable to lower quality—but less expensive—foreign leaf. While the quota marketing system has been a valuable tool to support and stabilize the income of the tobacco farmer, it has also created an artificial cost that has made it all the more difficult for the American grower to compete. Growers and their communities are dependent on tobacco for their economic survival; however they now find themselves trapped—forced to continue growing an increasingly unprofitable crop without the necessary resources to transition away from the current dysfunctional system.

Ending the quota is something we must do in order to save the economic viability of our tobacco farmers. We must also recognize that the quota system has created an asset—the quota itself—the value of which must be compensated to those who own or use it. Farmers have been increasingly supportive of the idea of a buy-out, as was the President's Commission on Improving Economic Opportunity in Communities Dependent on Tobacco Production While Protecting Public Health in its report published last year. Until now, the question of how to fund a buy-out was always a major obstacle. This bill, however, takes an innovative approach by proposing to fund the buy-out through the imposition of user-fees. These user-fees will initially provide the resources to fund both FDA regulatory actions and the buy-out. Once the buy-out has been completed, the user-fees will be used to fund FDA actions and other tobacco-related programs.

I realize it is a mistake to consider tobacco growers as a homogeneous lot. The needs and concerns of flue-cured growers differ from the needs and concerns of burley growers. The needs and concerns of Virginia growers are not the same as the needs and concerns of North Carolina growers. However, a vital concern to all growers is the question—what will the post buy-out world hold for me? We have taken steps in this bill to ensure fair compensation so that those who choose to stop growing tobacco can do so. For those that choose to continue to grow tobacco, not only will they be compensated for their quota's loss of value, but they are guaranteed that tobacco production will remain in those areas where it has been traditionally grown.

I have no tobacco farmers in my district, but I am a Virginian. Tobacco is a part of our culture—it was this crop that made the Colony of Virginia economically viable almost four hundred years ago. As we transitioned from colony to commonwealth, tobacco remained a keystone to our way of life. To this very day, the golden leaf adorns our statehouse. With this in mind, I say to the small farmers and rural communities whose fortunes have been tied to tobacco for generations, I will continue to work with you to ensure tobacco can remain a viable option for you. I recognize more may be necessary to keep all production from transferring to large farms. I am confident that by working with the other members of the Virginia delegation, the Virginia Farm Bureau, and all organizations dedicated to the well being and prosperity of tobacco growers in the

Commonwealth of Virginia that our small tobacco farms can survive and prosper in a post-bacco world.

In closing, let me state that I am eager to start the debate on tobacco. I hope my colleagues will join in so that a constructive, beneficial solution can be crafted.

CONGRATULATING SAINT PATRICK
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN
EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate Saint Patrick Roman Catholic Church in East Chicago, Indiana, as it celebrates its 100th anniversary as a congregation, on March 17, 2002, the Feast Day of St. Patrick. The anniversary celebration will begin with an afternoon Mass celebrated by Bishop Dale J. Melczek. Following the Mass, the parishioners will enjoy an evening filled with entertainment and dancing as they observe this milestone in the church's history.

Nestled among the smokestacks of the steel mills in the Indiana Harbor, St. Patrick Church has risen from its humble beginnings to serve as a cornerstone of the East Chicago community. Founded in 1902, the parish of St. Patrick was the first Roman Catholic Church established in the Indiana Harbor. Under the guidance of Father Thomas Mungoven, eight families met for Sunday Mass in Klein Hall on Michigan Avenue. With the strength of their faith to bolster their spirits, this small congregation constructed a church of their own. On January 25, 1903, the parish of St. Patrick celebrated its first Mass in its new home. By 1909, the parish grew to include 87 families from mostly Irish and Slavic backgrounds.

Over the years, as other ethnic groups were drawn to the area by the opportunities offered in the steel mills, the composition of East Chicago grew more diverse. Irish and Slavic families now welcomed Hispanic and African-American Catholics into the congregation. In 1986, in an effort to involve new parishioners in Sunday services, Father John Ambre instituted Masses in Spanish.

As the parish mission statement attests, the members "strive to be a welcoming community celebrating our cultural diversity; foster harmony and reconciliation among parishioners and the community . . ." Embracing the Christian ideals of loving thy brothers and sisters and honoring thy neighbors, the parishioners have opened the doors of St. Patrick to those in need of a spiritual home. When other ethnic parishes in East Chicago closed, St. Patrick welcomed these Catholics with open arms. In 1987, when St. Francis of Assisi Parish closed, St. Patrick installed the cornerstone of this church in its vestibule walls, a symbolic gesture affirming the acceptance of these new members into the church community. Again, when Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish closed in 1998, rather than allowing the church to fade from the memories of its former parishioners, St. Patrick added the altar to its own sanctuary. St. Patrick represents more than a building where worshippers meet once a week for a service; it truly embodies the tenets of the faith it espouses.

Since 1997, the current pastor, Father Fernando de Cristobal, has used his position as a spiritual leader to promote various cultural activities in order to better educate the entire congregation. For the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a holy day revered in Mexico, the celebration includes Las Mananitas, or morning songs, offered to the Virgin Mary and mariachi music, followed by a midnight Mass. On June 24th, the parish honors Saint John the Baptist, the patron saint of Puerto Rico, with a bilingual mass and a banquet. Keeping with this spirit of diversity, the centennial celebration will feature Irish dancers and bagpipes in an effort to pay tribute to the parish's Irish heritage.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me today in commending the parish family of St. Patrick Church, under the guidance of Father Fernando de Cristobal, as they prepare to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of their founding. All past and present parishioners and pastors should be proud of the numerous contributions they have made out of the love and the devotion they have displayed for their church.

GUN VIOLENCE IN LYNBROOK

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my deepest sympathy to the families of Reverend Lawrence Penzes and Eileen Tosner, both of whom were fatally shot Tuesday morning during 9 a.m. mass at Our Lady of Peace Church in Lynbrook, New York.

Reverend Penzes, 50, was ordained in 1978, and he became pastor at Our Lady of Peace in 1994. It is safe to say he was the backbone of the church. Parishioners remember him as a wonderful, generous and outgoing lay leader who touched countless lives. Other members of the Rockville Centre diocese commend his commitment to the Catholic faith and community.

Penzes has been instrumental in helping his church community of 2,400 families through the 6 months following September 11. He organized several sessions on dealing with stress, and continued his regular trips to U.S. armed forces stationed around the world. Other notable ways he served our country was his time as a chaplain in the local police force, and the air force.

Eileen Tosner, 73, was a devout Irish Catholic whose life revolved around her family, friends and community. She was a quiet but active woman who was always willing to help with whatever task was at hand. She worked at the church and volunteered on Sundays at the local VFW Post 2307 during bingo games. Up until two years ago, she helped other senior citizens by working as a companion and a helper. Often she could be found at the Lynbrook senior citizens center with her friends.

She was married to her husband Frank for more than 50 years, and together they had five children. Tosner's life wasn't easy; she had two paralyzed siblings, and two of her sons died of cancer. But all throughout her life, despite her difficulties, she remained deeply religious.

My heart is with the parishioners, the clergy and staff of Our Lady of Peace who witnessed this brutal violence. We must all say a prayer and light a candle for the community near Our Lady of Peace that was affected by this tragedy. The neighbors, police, emergency personnel and the nearby schools were all senselessly victimized as well.

I was in the vicinity of the church when the shooting occurred. Many of the local roads were blocked; those living nearby were basically under house arrest. Police covered the streets as they looked for the shooter, who had taken cover in a nearby home. Four hundred schoolchildren were being held indoors at the church school.

This isn't a new occurrence. Random acts of gun violence against innocent people happen all the time. A lot of Americans don't think it can happen to them, but my neighbors and I know all too well the pain that gun violence brings. It has happened everywhere: on trains, in schools, homes, the workplace. And now, in a place of worship.

It is unbelievable, yet it's true.

I have processed the details of what happened yesterday. I'm not standing here on a soapbox. I'm not talking about a certain piece of legislation.

I'm talking about safety. I'm talking about our children's safety, our neighbors' safety, the safety of different religious worshippers.

I think it's obvious. Gun violence wreaks havoc in our lives in various ways, not the least of which is the loss of safe places in our community. If we can't be safe at church, at school, on commuter trains, in our workplaces or at home, where does that leave us?

I urge you to seriously consider the havoc gun violence creates in our society. Better yet, consider its effect on your community. Please take a minute to think about it before it's too late.

May God be with us all.

TRIBUTE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS ON THE
THIRTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF
THEIR BECOMING A CABINET DE-
PARTMENT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the thirteenth anniversary of the Department of Veterans Affairs becoming a Cabinet Department. As Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am privileged to work with thousands of dedicated employees of the Department to improve the delivery of benefits and services to our nation's 25 million veterans and their families.

On October 25, 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed the Department of Veterans Affairs Act (H.R. 3471 in the 100th Congress), legislation I cosponsored and strongly supported. This Act led to the Veterans Administration (VA) becoming the 14th federal Department of the Executive Branch.

Subsequently, on March 15th, 1989, thirteen years ago this week, the Honorable Edwin Derwinski, was sworn in as the first Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Finally, the nation's veterans had a full and permanent seat at the President's Cabinet table.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is the second largest federal agency in terms of employees, with over 220,000 dedicated men and women providing a range of vital benefits and services for veterans around the country. The VA operates the largest integrated health network in the world, comprised of 163 medical centers, over 800 Community Based Outpatient Clinics, 135 nursing homes, 43 domiciliarys and 73 comprehensive home-care programs. The VA continues to provide quality care to millions of veterans, their families and their survivors.

In addition, the VA operates one of the most important medical research programs in the world, with more than 15,000 research projects at 115 VA medical centers. The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is on the cutting edge of research on matters ranging from brain trauma to hepatitis C to Alzheimer's disease. The VHA also pays particular attention to the wounds and illnesses of soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen, and recently opened two new Centers for the Study of War-Related Illnesses, one in Washington, DC, and the other in my home state of New Jersey.

The Department of Veterans Affairs maintains a national network of veterans' cemeteries for our nation's veterans, consisting of 119 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico and also administers six life insurance programs with 2.2 million policies in force having a face value of \$22 billion.

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), created as part of the new Department of Veterans Affairs, oversees a myriad of benefits programs for veterans, including disability compensation, education and training, job placement, home loans, and life insurance. Over 2.7 million veterans receive disability compensation payments for wounds or illnesses resulting from their service to our nation, and an additional 570,000 widows, children and surviving parents of deceased veterans also receive monthly benefit payments.

Mr. Speaker, the VA also operates the GI Bill program, which has provided college education and training to more than 20 million veterans since its creation in 1944. This historic program not only changed the way America looked at veterans benefits, it also changed the nature of higher education and helped to create the modern middle class. In addition, the VA operates the veterans home loan program, which has helped over 16 million former servicemen and women buy their own homes.

Since the creation of the original Veterans Administration in 1930, our nation has recognized the unique contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who have defended our freedom at home and abroad. Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs, ably led by Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi, continues to provide the benefits and services that our nations veterans have earned.

On the wall outside the VA's main office in Washington, DC, the words of President Abraham Lincoln are engraved on the building: "To care for him who have borne the battle, and his widow and his orphan." This is the mission that draws so many committed men and women to the VA.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to work on behalf of our nation's veterans and I want to pay tribute to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and especially all of their gifted and dedicated employees, on the 13th anniversary

of their becoming a full Cabinet Department of the federal government.

GIRL SCOUTS

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of a world-class organization that has achieved world-class results.

Founded in 1912 on the simple belief that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually, Juliette Gordon Low assembled a meeting of 18 girls in Savannah, GA. Today, the Girl Scouts of the USA has grown into an organization with membership numbering 3.8 million, far and away the largest organization for girls in the world.

I would especially like to praise the Girl Scouts of Chaparral Council, the local Girl Scout troop from my home district. Chartered in 1958 and serving over 6,000 girls and 2,000 adult volunteers, the Girl Scouts of Chaparral Council have been teaching girls in my district the ideals of character, conduct, and patriotism for almost 45 years. Organizations like the Girl Scouts of Chaparral Council that make me proud to represent the citizens of the first district of New Mexico.

The Girl Scouts of the USA is the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls, where in a positive, nurturing environment, girls build character and skills for success in the real world. In partnership with committed adult volunteers, girls develop qualities such as strong moral values, leadership, a social conscience, and conviction about their own potential and self worth—values that will serve them well the rest of their lives.

Being involved with Girl Scouts enables girls to develop self-confidence and expertise, take on responsibility, think creatively, and act with integrity. Girl Scouts learn the characteristics essential being good citizens and great leaders.

The U.S. Congress chartered the Girl Scouts of the USA on March 16th, 1950, and at present, there is a "Troop Capitol Hill" made up entirely of Congresswomen who are honorary members.

For 90 years, Girl Scouts of the USA has had a proven track record of empowering girls to become leaders, helping adults become positive role models and mentors for children, and helping to build strong communities. Girl Scouts of the USA truly is a place "where girls grow strong!"

EVIDENCE IN CHITHISINGPHORA FAKED, GOVERNMENT ADMITS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, back in March 2000, just before former President Clinton visited India, 35 Sikhs were massacred in the village of Chithisingphora in Kashmir.

At the time, many people accused the Indian government of this atrocity while the Indian government laid the blame on Pakistani-sponsored militants. A study by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) and the Punjab Human Rights Organization (PHRO) showed that the Indian government's own forces had killed these innocent Sikhs, a conclusion confirmed by a study from the international Human Rights Organization (IHRO) and by an article in the New York Times Magazine by Barry Bearak. Yet the Indian government maintained the fiction that Pakistanis carried out the massacre. They killed five young Kashmiris, claiming they were responsible, then were force to admit that they were not. Then five other Kashmiris were arrested and charged with the crime.

On March 8, Reuters news service reported that the chief minister of Kashmir, Farooq Abdullah, admitted that the evidence against these Kashmiris was faked. That's right, Mr. Speaker, the "world's largest democracy" faked evidence to falsely convict some Kashmiris of the massacre of these Sikhs in order to set these two minorities against each other. Fortunately, it has not worked. Last year, some Indian troops were caught red-handed trying to set fire to a Gurdwara and some Sikh homes in Kashmir and they were overwhelmed by Sikh and Muslim villagers.

Remember also, Mr. Speaker, that the ruling BJP is part of a militant Hindu nationalist organization the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), which published a booklet last year on how to implicate minorities in false criminal cases.

Given the government's admission of fraud in this case, how many other cases have they faked? They admit to holding 52,268 Sikhs as political prisoners, according to a MASR report. Amnesty International says that tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners in "the world's largest democracy." How many cases have been faked against these prisoners?

Mr. Speaker, it is shameful that the evidence in the Chithisingphora massacre was faked, and it is shameful that it needed to be. However, the people who carry out atrocities like this massacre are rarely if ever punished. Instead, the state either finds scapegoats like the five Kashmiris it is currently holding or it does nothing. It has found a scapegoat in the killing of Graham Staines, even though every report at the time reported that a mob of people chanting Hindu slogans burned Mr. Staines and his two sons. No one has been punished in the murder of former Akal Takht Jathedar Gurdev Singh Kaunke or in the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalar, who was killed in police custody.

I call on the Indian government to punish those who tampered with the evidence in this case immediately. I also call on the United States to cut off aid with India until they allow people to enjoy basic human rights and a fair, impartial system of justice. We should also press for a free and fair plebiscite on independence for the people of Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and the other countries seeking their freedom. That is only way to protect their rights and end this kind of abuse.

KASHMIR GOVT. SAYS SIKH MASSACRE
SAMPLES FAKED

(By Ashok Pahalwan)

JAMMU, India (Reuters).—The state government of Kashmir admitted on Friday that forensic samples taken in an attempt to confirm the guilt of five young men blamed for a Sikh massacre two years ago were faked. The killing of 36 Sikhs in remote Chitisingpora village in the violence-racked state of Jammu and Kashmir in March 2000 occurred hours before a visit by U.S. President Bill Clinton to India and drew strong condemnation from him. Indian newspapers have alleged that soon after the massacre security forces picked up five innocent youths, killed them in a stage-managed gun battle, burned their bodies and then claimed they were "foreign militants" responsible for the Sikhs' deaths. The bodies of the five youths were exhumed and forensic samples taken only after massive demonstrations in Kashmir by protesters. Kashmir state chief minister Farooq Abdullah told the legislature on Friday "it appears fake samples were sent" to laboratories and apologized for "the injustice done to the people for which I feel ashamed". "We strongly suggest those responsible for collecting and sending the samples had something to hide," he added, promising an investigation into the tampering. India had identified the five youths blamed for the Sikh killings as belonging to the militant separatist groups Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizbul Mujahideen.

Both groups denied responsibility and, with Pakistan, blamed India for the massacre which they said was aimed at discrediting the Kashmiri independence cause during Clinton's visit. The laboratories to which the samples were sent to establish the youths' identity said they were mislabeled and showed serious discrepancies. Abdullah said a judge would lead the probe, which would take two months. He also said fresh test samples would be taken under the supervision of police and doctors. The Times of India, one of the newspapers which investigated reports that the samples had been falsified, accused the state in an editorial on Friday of a "brazen" cover-up. "From knowingly foisting the charge of terrorism on innocents to eliminating them in a fake encounter . . . (it) is an example of the worst kind of state high-handedness," it said in an editorial. More than 33,000 people have been killed since 1989 when Islamic guerrillas seeking either independence or union with neighboring Pakistan launched a revolt in Kashmir.

Human rights groups have frequently accused Indian security forces of abuses such as summary killings and torture. India has always denied systematic human rights abuses and said that any allegations are investigated and the guilty punished.

IN HONOR OF DR. STEPHEN
LIPMAN, SENIOR PASTORIAL
COUNSELOR FOR HOSPICE OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has been a true asset to his community. His caring and guidance have touched many families and friends in need of support.

I speak of Dr. Stephen Lipman, Senior Pastoral Counselor for Hospice of Palm Beach

County for the past 19 years. Fortunately, Steve is not retiring, but is offering his services as the Pastor of the Jupiter Medical Center.

We all know of the fine work Hospice offers and what kind of a person it takes to counsel the individuals and their families whose loved ones are in the transition for their final stages of life.

Dr. Lipman's services have gone beyond that: whether it is counseling young children, lending kindness to the terminally ill or simply offering a smiling face, you can always count on Steve. He exemplifies all that is good in a individual.

I would like to join the communities of South Florida and thank Dr. Lipman for his sincere dedication and years of service.

Mr. Speaker, please let the record reflect the 107th Congress' appreciation for all he has done.

HONORING MOLLIE TAYLOR STEVENSON, SR. AND MOLLIE TAYLOR STEVENSON, JR.

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mollie Taylor Stevenson, Sr., and her daughter, Mollie Taylor Stevenson, Jr., who are the first living African-American women and native Houstonians to be inducted into the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame. The organization honors and documents the lives of women who have distinguished themselves by exemplifying the pioneering spirit of the American West. The Stevensons were inducted during a ceremony at the Renaissance Worthington Hotel in Ft. Worth, Texas, on November 9, 2001.

Friends and family know them as "Mollie" and "Lil Mollie". The 89-year-old Mollie, Sr. and the fifty something, Mollie, Jr., reside on their family-owned Taylor-Stevenson Ranch within the city limits of Houston. These women possess grit and determination inherited from Mollie, Sr.'s grandmother, Ann Taylor, who was purchased in 1856 as a 21-year-old slave by Edward W. Taylor. Ann and the owner's son fell in love and because laws of the day forbade interracial marriage, they lived together and reared six children and sent them to college.

Mollie, Sr., the first born child of Major and Hester Taylor, not only inherited her parent's love for the land, but the tradition of pursuing higher education. In 1934, Mollie, Sr. graduated from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, majoring in music and classical piano studies. After graduation, she traveled with the Fisk Jubilee Singers and was a regular guest pianist at Houston's historic Rice Hotel. It was at Fisk where Mollie, Sr. met the love of her life, Benjamin "Big Ben" Stevenson, a seventeen All American from Tuskegee Institute, who earned a B.S. in agriculture and animal husbandry in 1931. They were married in a lavish lawn wedding in 1937.

Mollie, Sr. spent most of her adult years fending off attempts to wrest oil-producing property from her through lawsuits, theft, or crafty persuasion. After the death of Mollie Sr.'s grandfather in 1929, relatives, both white

and African-American, began to make claims on the oil-rich land. With the death of her father in 1949 and her mother in 1950, the struggle to preserve her birthright escalated and was much like the ranch wars seen in the old west. Cattle were stolen and attempts to acquire the valuable oil leases became a frequent occurrence. Mollie took on challengers in and out of court and preserved for her descendants their right to the Taylor-Stevenson lands.

During segregation, Mollie, Sr., and her husband, "Big Ben", created a haven for African-American children barred from all but one of the city's parks. At the Stevenson ranch children could ride horses, play with the ranch animals, eat farm-fresh meals, and spend weekends and summers on the ranch. The Stevensons became well known for their philanthropy and generous spirits. Believing that education was very important, they not only educated their own children, but countless others with food, books, tuition payments and entire college educations. There are regularly scheduled field trips to the ranch and museum, which provides an opportunity to those who would not otherwise have a chance to experience the true nature of a working ranch.

Mollie, Jr., worked as a professional model in Houston, Kansas City and New York, but she was drawn back home where she worked side by side with her mother to preserve their legacy. She established the American Cowboy Museum, a 501(c)(3) organization in 1987. It honors the contributions to Western culture of African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and women. Mollie Jr. has been featured on radio and television and in articles in *Ebony*, *Essence*, *Texas Highways*, *Horse Talk* and many local newspapers. She has been honored by numerous schools as a motivational speaker and event coordinator. Mollie, Jr. is also a journalist and an active volunteer with the Sugar Shack Trailride and various other rodeo trail ride associations. She is also a member of the Speakers and Black Go Texan Committee of the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, the Professional Black Cowboy & Cowgirl Association, the Landowners of Texas, and her favorite, the Diamond L Riding & Roping Club. To acquaint a new generation with this rich history, Mollie offers school tours, leather crafts for visiting children, lectures, a traveling exhibit with quilt display, horseback riding, a mobile petting zoo, and living history presentations. She also encourages young people to consider careers in agribusiness and land ownership and sponsors FFA and 4-H students.

The Taylor-Stevenson Ranch is a treasure that seven generations of the family have fought hard to preserve and on which they still live or maintain various areas. The 150-year-old working ranch is one of the oldest Black-owned ranches in the United States, complete with an assortment of livestock. In the shadows of the 4th largest city in the country, the Stevensons have carved out a legacy that can provide a momentary escape from the hurried pace of the city. About 100 tours and field trips are conducted each year. Heritage tours and family reunions are also a part of the activities arranged by the ranch. During the 1940s and early 50s, the ranch was home to Sky Ranch, an aviation school operated by Tuskegee graduates who were mechanics for the famed World War II Tuskegee Airmen. The property is also officially listed as a Texas

Century Ranch, an honor reserved for ranches operated by the same family for more than 100 years and certified by the Commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture. The Ranch continues to be run with family love and values. Mollie Stevenson, Sr. is still the matriarch of the ranch, cared for by six of her children and their families who live on the property. The Black Professional Cowboy & Cowgirl Association and also the Black Go Texan Committee recognized Mollie, Sr. as a "Living Legend."

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mollie Stevenson, Sr. and Mollie Stevenson, Jr. who have lived their lives as true stewards of their land and community. They are the driving force behind the ongoing success of the ranch and museum. They stand tall over their corner of Houston and give as much to the community as they give to the land. Their ranch is not only a part of Houston's heritage, but it is also a part of a heritage forged by the ceaseless contributions of African-American cowboys and ranchers.

HONORING THE GIRL SCOUTS ON
THE OCCASION OF THEIR 90TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to pay tribute to the Girl Scouts on their 90th Anniversary.

The Girl Scouts are the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls—all girls. In a nurturing environment, girls are able to build character and skills for success in the real world. Girl Scouting began on March 12, 1912, when founder Juliette Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia, for a local Girl Scout meeting. She believed that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Today, Mr. Speaker, that small group of 18 girls from Savannah has blossomed into 3.8 million Girl Scouts nationwide. The Detroit Metro Girl Scouts currently have 32,000 girls involved and it just keeps growing. Not only have the Girl Scouts continued their dedication to building good citizens and leaders, but their organization has established a research institute, received government funding to address violence prevention and is addressing the digital divide with activities that encourage girls to pursue careers in science, math and technology. The Detroit Metro Girl Scouts have set up a program with Lawrence Technological Institute in Detroit, Michigan to further the involvement of young women in the field of technology.

In the Girl Scouts, girls discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together, through a myriad of experiences, such as extraordinary field trips, sports skill-building clinics, community service projects, environmental stewardships and numerous other character building activities. They provide young women with the opportunity to build a strong mind, body, and spirit through various programs dealing with nutrition, diet, exercise and several other health campaigns including the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and Child Health Day.

Mr. Speaker, the Girl Scouts are an asset to communities all over the United States. I want to thank them for their tireless effort to provide young women with the personal, emotional and intellectual foundation that is essential for building good citizens and leaders. On the occasion of their 90th Anniversary, I would like to ask all my colleagues to salute the Detroit Metro Girl Scouts and their fellow Girl Scouts across the country.

IN HONOR OF THE GIRL SCOUTS'
90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEN LUCAS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an outstanding organization that is dedicated to helping girls throughout the world. This organization is the Girl Scouts.

Specifically, I would like to honor the Girl Scouts of Kentucky, and especially the members of Kentucky's 4th Congressional District, which I represent. Founded on March 3, 1912, by Juliette Gordon Low in Savannah, GA, the Girl Scouts have earned the admiration of this great Nation. Juliette Gordon Low had a vision. She wanted all young women to be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually. After 90 years, Juliette Gordon Low's vision remains the basic mission of the Girl Scouts.

Working as a grassroots organization, the Girl Scouts have changed the lives of millions of girls. Worldwide, the Girl Scouts have over 10 million members, both women and girls, in 140 countries. In Kentucky alone, there are over 44,000 Girl Scouts and 13,000 adult volunteers. And right in the Licking Valley of Kentucky, there are 5,000 Girl Scouts and 1,300 adult volunteers. Mr. Speaker, this is an outstanding organization.

As the Girl Scouts celebrate their 90th anniversary, I would like to conclude with the Girl Scouts promise: "On my honor, I will try: To serve God and my country, To help people at all time, and to live by the Girl Scouts Law."

I ask my colleagues to join me to honor this incredible organization that has changed the lives of millions of Americans and people throughout the world.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF
THE DELAINE EASTIN ELEMEN-
TARY SCHOOL IN UNION CITY,
CALIFORNIA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Delaine Eastin, on the dedication of the Delaine Eastin Elementary School in Union City, California.

Delaine Eastin once stated, "I'll never stop fighting for children and education, it's my life's work." As a strong defender of top-quality education in California, Delaine Eastin has proven immeasurably successful at this admirable goal.

As State Superintendent, Delaine Eastin has fought for safer and healthier schools, modern facilities, cutting-edge technology, family-school partnerships, teacher training and professional development, tighter graduation requirements, and increased resources for schools.

She is a dedicated advocate for reduced class sizes, improved reading and mathematics instruction, and the implementation of statewide standards, assessment, and increased accountability for what students should accomplish. She has tirelessly advocated for improved library facilities, strong arts programs, and librarians, counselors, and nurses in all California schools.

Delaine Eastin is currently serving her second term as State Superintendent. Prior to this position, she served as an educator, a Union City city councilwoman, and a four-term State Assemblywoman for Southern Alameda County. She was chair of the Assembly Committee on Education, where she voiced early support for the charter school concept and for strengthened technical and vocational training.

Delaine Eastin is the recipient of many distinguished awards and recognitions, notably the President's Crystal Apple Award from the American Library Association, the Distinguished Alumna Award from the University of California, Santa Barbara, the Woman of Achievement Award from the Women's Fund, and the Leader Award from California Leadership. In addition to the Delaine Eastin Elementary School, a day care center also carries her name.

I am honored to congratulate Delaine Eastin on all of her remarkable accomplishments. Her tireless dedication to improving education in California has assured every child in the state the opportunity for a bright and successful future.

TRIBUTE TO CALVIN RAPSON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Calvin Rapson on his retirement as Director of UAW Region 1-C. Cal will be honored at a testimonial dinner on May 8th in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Cal Rapson began his career with the UAW in 1965 working for the Chevrolet Engine plant. Through his employment with Chevrolet Cal earned a Machine Repair Machinist skilled trades Journeyman classification. After graduating from the UAW-GM apprenticeship program Cal became active in UAW Local 659.

UAW Local Unions are the front lines in providing assistance and better jobsite conditions for workers. Through the various elected positions Cal held with Local 659, he was able to learn every aspect of the Local's day-to-day operations. From grassroots political action, solving health and safety problems and negotiating local contracts, Cal was at the forefront of every fight for justice and equity for the members. In 1982 he was the chair of the UAW Negotiating Team that successfully bargained the UAW-GM Master Agreement.

This success led to his appointment to the UAW International staff that same year. Working with a wide variety of organizations and

plants, Cal participated in the global efforts of the UAW to bring fair wages, human rights, and a new approach to international trade to workers in the United States and worldwide. In 1988 Cal was promoted to Coordinator of Active Training Programs at the UAW-GM Human Resources Center. He went on to serve in the UAW GM Department as Administrative Assistant to then UAW Vice-President Stephen Yokich from 1989 to 1995.

Following up his appointment as Assistant Director of Region 1-C in 1995, Cal was named the region's director in 1998. With these two positions Cal came back to his early roots. His service to the Flint community reflects Cal's vision of a better life for workers and their families. He serves on the board of many community organizations including Healthplus of Michigan and the Greater Flint Health Coalition.

A huge Spartan fan, Cal attended Michigan State University. Realizing the importance of education and history Cal now works with Michigan State University, Mott Community College and Lansing Community College to preserve the history of the labor movement and to foster better relations between labor and educational institutions.

Cal Rapson has a deep and abiding respect for the workers in Region 1-C. Having come up through the ranks with most of the workers in this area Cal stated in his director's report, "I have never been prouder to be from this region than after the events of September 11." Under his leadership the local unions raised over \$500,000 to benefit the victims of that tragedy. UAW Region 1-C workers donated their time and labor to build vehicles for the New York City recovery operation, replacing those destroyed in the collapse of the World Trade Towers.

Mr. Speaker, I consider Cal Rapson a dear friend and superior advisor. I appreciate his expertise, his common sense, his judgment, his guidance, and discernment. The UAW will miss his contributions to the labor movement. I ask the House of Representatives join me in wishing him the best as he begins his well-deserved retirement.

COMMEMORATIVE BUCKS OF
MICHIGAN SCORES BIG FOR
HUNTERS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Commemorative Bucks of Michigan on the occasion of its 20th anniversary. I am proud to have written during my years as a state lawmaker the resolution that established Commemorative Bucks as the official record-keeping organization for big game hunters in my home state or Michigan. I am prouder still to be a member of such an outstanding organization and to have one of my hunting achievements included in its record book.

As a non-profit organization, Commemorative Bucks of Michigan collects and maintains records on trophy class Whitetail deer, black bear, elk and turkey taken by legal hunting means in the state of Michigan. Under the strong leadership of President Richard Wilt and previous top officials, Commemorative Bucks has become a premier organization in the state for the promotion and advancement

of big game hunting. In addition to its record books, the organization's official publication, "Buck Fax," has become an excellent resource for hunters throughout the state.

The magazine provides a top-notch forum for successful hunters to pass on their personal hunting strategies and display their trophies with their own pictures. It also provides a guide for young novice hunters through information and articles included in "Buck Tail Basics." Moreover, in the interest of community service, "Buck Fax" is mailed free of charge to every high school library in the state and to veterans hospitals.

In addition, both through the magazine and through informational events held across the state, Commemorative Bucks plays a vital role as an advocate for deer management and the cultivation of wildlife as a renewable resource. As all outdoors enthusiasts understand, hunting greatly benefits our efforts to sustain wildlife populations and foster an environment that will protect our resources for future generations. Commemorative Bucks also takes an active role in promoting hunters' rights to ensure that the ability to hunt is not infringed upon by those who fail to understand the importance of hunting.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Commemorative Bucks of Michigan, President Richard Wilt and the entire membership for the significant contributions to hunting made by the organization during the past 20 years. I am confident Commemorative Bucks will continue to honor the achievements of Michigan Hunters and act as an advocate for responsible hunting and wildlife management for many years to come.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN—
MADISON MALE BASKETBALL
TEAM

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the University of Wisconsin—Madison male basketball team who through a season of intense hard work made the 2002 NCAA basketball tournament. After being picked to finish ninth in their league by most pre-season publications, the UW Badgers ended the season with a share of the Big Ten Championship, and a number one seed in the Big Ten Tournament. This championship title was the first the school has seen since the 1946-'47 season.

The team began the season with a new coach, Bo Ryan, and had graduated four out of its five starters from last season, and before the season even got underway, lost two of its star freshmen. Under the motivating leadership of Ryan, however, the team finished its regular season with an impressive six-game winning streak to finish the Big Ten season with an 11-5 record and an 18-11 mark overall.

Ending Michigan State's, fifty-three home game winning streak in January, and their one-point victory over Indiana, providing the first UW victory over Indiana at Indiana in twenty-five years, were just a couple of the highlights of this exciting Badger season. Their last game, in which the team beat Michigan by twenty points, ended with a sold-out crowd chanting "Big Ten Champs. Big Ten Champs." These Big Ten Champs ended up with an

eight seed in the NCAA tournament and will be playing their first game against St. John's University on the evening of Friday, March 15, at the MCI Center in Washington, DC.

I wholeheartedly congratulate the University of Wisconsin Males Basketball Team on their successful season and wish them the best of luck in the NCAA tournament.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GERTRUDE L.
BENZEL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to recognize the life and contributions of Gertrude L. Benzel of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Gert peacefully left us on a Saturday morning, March 9, 2002. Gert was a popular member and patriarch of the community and was often sought by many for her listening ear, advice, and warm smile.

Gert was a native of her state, born in 1911 in Delta, Colorado and resided in Grand Junction. In 1942, Gert, along with her late husband Alex, moved to Glenwood Springs and purchased a sheep ranch. Gert soon thereafter found herself desiring to improve the lives of her fellow community members. She was often found spending her time as President of the State Woolgrowers Association, as a charter member of the Glenwood Springs Golf Club, or at various charitable and volunteer organizations throughout the area. What I find truly amazing is how Gert was able to stay completely involved in her pursuits and still be able to raise a family that appreciated and valued the importance of hard work, honor, and perseverance. She raised her children John and Joanne to be respectful and hardworking individuals determined to succeed in their own pursuits. Gert's influence touched many lives outside of her immediate family and she was a well-revered and loving mother, grandmother, wife, sister, and friend to many.

Gert's passing is especially hard for me as she was like a second mother to our family. I have such warm memories of those days of my youth that I spent visiting our neighbors, the Benzels. Whether it was hunting with John, handling sheep up Storm King with Shep (Alex), talking with JoAnne, or watching Jeannie with baby Julie, they were all wonderful times. But truly, I will miss that special time with Gert. The ranch, the golf course, the kitchen (baking cakes for my parents birthday), the kittens, all of it was good living and we will miss her very much.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Gertrude L. Benzel for the great strides she took in establishing herself as a valuable leader and patriarch of the Glenwood Springs community. Her dedication to family, friends, work, and the community certainly deserves the recognition of this body of Congress, and this nation. Although Gert has left us, her good-natured spirit lives on through the lives of those she has touched. I would like to extend my regrets and deepest sympathies to Gert's family and friends during this sad and difficult time. We're going to miss you Gert.