

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### PORTUGUESE INSTRUCTIVE SOCIAL CLUB INCORPORATED

#### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Portuguese Instructive Social Club Incorporated (PISC). The Club commemorated this important milestone on Saturday, March 16, 2002.

In the early 1900's, Portuguese immigrants started making Elizabeth, New Jersey their new home. The Portuguese Instructive Social Club was born out of pride for the founder's heritage, and as a way to preserve Portuguese culture, language, and traditions. The Club provided a support structure to help immigrants adjust to American culture, the English language, and a new way of life.

The Club became a reality thanks to the dynamic leadership of Amadeu Correia and a group of fellow Portuguese immigrants. Officially founded on March 18, 1922, the Portuguese Instructive Social Club became the center of the Portuguese community in Elizabeth. The Club was first located at 131 Pine Street, later moved to 131 Third Street, and today is located at Routes 1-9 and Portugal Grove Street in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Over time, the Portuguese-American community has grown considerably, and with its growth, the Club began offering more activities to its members. By 1925, the Club included a drama group, an orchestra, and a soccer team. Ten years later, on January 20, 1935, a new group emerged, the "Ladies Auxiliary of the Portuguese Instructive Social Club." In 1935, Amadeu Correia founded the Portuguese School, then known as "Escola 1 de Dezembro," with a class of about 30 students. Today, the school is known as "Amadeu Correia School," with an average of 275 students. In 1940, the "Youth of the PISC" introduced new activities, such as bowling, basketball, soccer, and youth dances. On February 7, 1970, after a major fundraising drive, the new Portuguese Instructive Social Club in Elizabeth, New Jersey was inaugurated.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Portuguese Instructive Social Club Incorporated for providing 80 years of camaraderie and the preservation of Portuguese culture and traditions in New Jersey.

### TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARGARET ERVING

#### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to Mrs. Margaret Erving, born in Iowa City. Mrs. Erving graduated from high school in Fort

Dodge, Iowa, and was immediately inducted into the United States Air Force, completing her training at Lackland Air Force base in Texas. She spent 5 years in the Air Force, in which time she attended the United States Air Force Supply School in Denver, Colorado. She is a graduate of the College of New Jersey, having earned a bachelor of science degree with a major in sociology, and a minor in business administration.

Mrs. Erving began her career at Fort Monmouth on February 2, 1980, and completed over 27 years of civilian/military service there. Her beginning position was that of a GS-3 Supply Clerk in the Directorate of Materiel Management.

Since her debut in 1980, Mrs. Erving has served in several capacities including Supply, Quality Assurance, and Logistics positions. In February 1981 she was chosen to participate in the Quality Assurance Career Intern Program, and was promoted to the GS-1910-5 position in the Directorate of Materiel Management. That same year Mrs. Erving qualified and was promoted to the grade of GS-1910-9. In June 1983 she was promoted again to the grade of GS-11 in the Directorate of Quality Operations/Communications, Automatic Data Processing Section where she worked until 1985 at which time she was promoted to grade GS-12 Quality Assurance Specialist in the Directorate of Product Assurance and Test. In 1987 she was reassigned to the Communications Directorate MSE (Mobile Subscriber Equipment) branch, from which she is now retiring. In this position she traveled widely both in and out of the Continental United States, journeying to destinations such as Germany, France, England, Sweden, and Canada.

Mrs. Erving's efforts have been outstanding, and she has, consequently, received numerous awards and accolades for her accomplishments and the Retrofit Program. Some of her awards include the Good Conduct Medal, sustained Superior Performance awards between the years 1995 and 2002. Certificates of Achievement in 1989 and 1995, Special Act Awards, and a letter of appreciation from Major General Robert I. Nabors, former Commanding General, United States Army, Communications-Electronics Command at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. In 1991, she was yet again promoted to the temporary position of GS-13.

Mrs. Erving's external activities include being a life member of the National Council of Negro Women; member of the NAACP; member of the church of the Good Shepard, Willingboro, NJ; substitute school teacher, Willingboro, NJ public school system; a charter member of the women in military service; and vice-president and treasurer of Jonmar creations, an ethnic greeting card company founded and operated by her husband, John Erving, Jr.

For continuing efforts to make a difference both in her own community and the world, Mrs. Margaret Erving deserves our praise and recognition.

### TRIBUTE TO UKRAINIAN CONSULATE

#### HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the opening of the Ukrainian Consulate in Michigan, which will officially begin operations on March 23, 2002.

The opening of this consulate in Michigan demonstrates the special relationship the United States has with Ukraine, and signifies the importance of the Ukrainian-American community in southeastern Michigan. There are approximately 200,000 Americans of Ukrainian descent residing in Michigan, with the vast majority living in the Detroit metro area, and they have contributed greatly to the diversity and the prosperity of the region.

Since first arriving in the United States, Ukrainian-Americans have done well in all aspects of American historical, socio-cultural, and political life. Their sons and daughters have grown up to be doctors, professors, lawyers, and other professionals. They have been a vital part of the industrial life in Michigan, and served nobly in the armed services of this Nation. Yet, even as they embraced America, Ukrainian-Americans have maintained their rich cultural history and ethnic identity, and sought to teach fellow Americans about this culture.

Nowhere is this culture more in evidence than at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, which serves as the home for the consulate in Warren, MI. The Ukrainian Cultural Center is home to more than 40 arts, civic, educational, social, sports, and youth organizations, including the member organizations of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America branch for southeastern Michigan.

The center is an integral part of not only the Ukrainian community, but all of metropolitan Detroit and Michigan. With the addition of the consulate, the center now is able to assist Ukrainian-Americans in Michigan and to facilitate trade, cultural and academic programs, and exchanges between Ukraine and Michigan.

The consulate became a reality through the tireless efforts of the men and women of the Committee in Support of the Consulate of Ukraine in Michigan. Borys Potapenko, who served as chairman of the committee, and Bohdan Fedorak, who has been designated Honorary Consul of Ukraine in Michigan, have routinely devoted so much of their time to the Ukrainian community through the years.

The opening of the consulate demonstrates that the partnership between our nations is increasingly being strengthened. This is another milestone along that road. It is not the end of the journey.

So I ask my colleagues to join me as we extend our sincere congratulations to the people of Michigan and around the Nation on the opening of the Ukrainian Consulate in Michigan.

• 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.

CONGRESSMAN KILDEE HONORS  
MATTHEW CROFT

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating a young student from Michigan who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in his community. Matthew Croft of Waterford has just been named on of Michigan's top two honorees in the 2002 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each State, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Matthew will be honored today with a ceremony to be held at his school.

Matthew is being honored for developing and implementing a program to buy bicycle safety helmets for needy first and second-grade children. As an eighth grader at Marist Academy, Matthew belongs to a group called STAND or Students Taking a New Direction. This group was organized to leadership through doing for others and learning to make healthy choices. After reading an article that stated only 20 percent of bike riders in Michigan wore helmets, Matthew decided to take action. He approached his fellow students in STAND and persuaded them to help correct this problem. Matthew helped organize several fundraisers, he obtained matching funds from AAA, and he approached retailers in the area to get a discount on the cost of the helmets.

Once the helmets were purchased, Matthew was one of four presenters explaining to the elementary students that it is "cool" to wear helmets. The students at Whitmer Resource Center in Pontiac responded enthusiastically. Through Matthew efforts more young children in Pontiac are practicing bicycle safety and wearing headgear that may save their lives.

Matthew should be extremely pleased to be singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. He is an example of the important role young Americans play in our communities. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in commending Matthew, his fellow students and faculty at Marist Academy and their families for making this a better world.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING

**HON. JOHN E. SUNUNU**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to the floor today to honor some very important people in the lives of New Hampshire's children—teachers.

I am proud to recognize the accomplishments of nine recipients of the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. These nine recipients are now candidates for the national award.

Like all teachers, they are hard working and dedicated to their students. They instill curiosity and drive to explore ideas and concepts that will help their students in the classroom and throughout their academic pursuits.

The teachers are recognized for their professional performance and for significantly improving their students' understanding of science and mathematics.

The recipients are science and math teachers in elementary, middle, and high schools from all across New Hampshire. I applaud each one of them for their hard work.

In science, the recipients are: Deborah Morill Bates, of Bluff Elementary School, in Claremont; Laura Elise Dreyer, of McKelvie Middle School, in Bedford; Diane Barbara Savage, of Nashua Senior High School, in Nashua; and Dennis Paul Vienneau, of Moultonborough Academy, in Moultonborough.

In mathematics, the recipients are: Catherine Stavenger, of Memorial Elementary School, in Bedford; Janet Christina Valeri, of Mt. Pleasant Elementary School, in Nashua; Terry Reginald Bailey, of Pinkerton Academy, in Derry; Catherine Brownrigg Burns, of McKelvie Middle School, in Bedford; and Dianne Jaye Klabeck, of Belmont Middle School, in Belmont.

On behalf of your students, your schools, and your state, I salute you.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND RONALD L. OWENS

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to Reverend Ronald L. Owens residing in the Sixth District of New Jersey. He is celebrating his 25th year in the ministry.

Reverend Owens is currently the Senior Pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church of Metuchen, New Jersey. On Friday, April 12, 2002, his church will recognize his illustrious career and dedication to Metuchen and surrounding communities. Reverend Owens graduated from Northeastern Bible College in Essex Falls. He also has earned a degree from the Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia. Presently, he is a candidate for the Doctorate in Ministry from Andersonville Baptist Seminary in Camille, Georgia.

At the New Hope Baptist Church he has the unique honor of pastoring the church he attended in his youth. The church has grown to more than five hundred active members, with more than thirty active ministries serving the community. Reverend Owens has a noteworthy career. It includes serving as a member of the Board of Supervisors for Field Ministry at Princeton Theological Seminary and the Ad-Hoc Committee for Minority Recruitment for Robert Wood's Medical School at Rutgers University. Additionally, he has acted as the president of the Metuchen/Edison Clergy Association and former Vice-Chairman of the Democratic Party of Middlesex County in the State of New Jersey. Lastly, he was President and CEO of the House of Hope Community Development Corporation of New Jersey.

Outside of his career, he spends time with his adoring wife of thirty-years, Cheryl Owens, and his two daughters, Tracey and Kimberly. He also enjoys spending time with his four grandsons, Adam II, Joshua, Blair, Jr., and Brandon. Through his ministry he spreads the word of God and provides spiritual leadership.

Now entering his twenty-fifth year of service, I would like to congratulate Reverend Ronald L. Owens on this momentous occasion.

IN HONOR OF DR. JOSE R. SANCHEZ-PENA

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Jose R. Sanchez-Pena for his many contributions to the Hispanic community. He will be honored by the Federation of Cuban Musicians in Exile on Sunday, March 17, 2002, at Mi Bandera restaurant in Union City, NJ.

Dr. Jose R. Sanchez-Pena is currently an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Puerto Rico and the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey.

He is a member of Barnert Memorial Hospital in Paterson, NJ. In Passaic, NJ, he is a member of Beth Israel Hospital, Saint Mary's Hospital, and General Hospital Center. He is the Medical Director at Gregory Medical Associates, Comprehensive Medical Evaluations, and Gregory Surgical Services.

Dr. Jose R. Sanchez-Pena is an asset to the Hispanic community, providing excellent medical care to countless Hispanics at his medical offices in Manhattan, Queens, Jersey City, West New York, Paterson, Passaic, and Hoboken. Having medical licenses in New York, New Jersey, Indiana, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic, he is able to extend his services to a diverse group of individuals.

Not only does he attend to people's medical needs, but his services also benefit the community, as he is a medical consultant for the Social Security Administration, the Immigration and Naturalization Services, and Workmen's Compensation in the State of New York and New Jersey.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Jose Sanchez-Pena for his many contributions to the medical community and the Hispanic community of New Jersey.

TRIBUTE TO JASON CUNNINGHAM

**HON. HEATHER WILSON**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it rained in Washington last Wednesday. By Thursday morning the sun was burning through the mist that blanketed Arlington National Cemetery. On the north side of a ridge near a grove of evergreen trees an Air Force honor guard carried Jason Cunningham's casket to his final resting place.

There were six honorary pall bearers who followed the casket up the incline to where the family and a small cluster of others waited. Those six all wore the maroon berets of the Air Force elite pararescuemen. There were dozens of PJs there, mostly from Jason's squadron in Georgia. All of them had completed their PJ training at Kirtland Air Force Base.

Over the ridge to the south of where we stood two cranes lined the sky where crews

work feverishly to rebuild the Pentagon. You could hear the throb for work from the site and it was comforting, somehow, to know that even as we grieve deeply for those lost we are rebuilding and going on.

Jason Cunningham was a New Mexican and, by all accounts, a good man who was willing to risk his life in daring missions to rescue others. That's what PJs do. When Navy SEAL Petty Officer Neil Roberts was left behind after his helicopter was attacked in a mountain valley in Afghanistan, Jason and his team went in to try to rescue him. They got into a vicious fire fight. Jason, the Navy SEAL, and five others were killed. Eleven Americans were wounded.

Even when you know a cause is just, when those who fight do so willingly, when you know it's a fight we have to win, the grief is just as deep. The rifle shots of the honor guard, the echoes of taps, the rescue choppers flying by in a last salute, the wide-eyed children of a soldier who won't be coming home, weighed heavily on everyone at Arlington on Thursday.

There were thousands of New Mexicans who would have been at Arlington if they could have. I went to represent them and to let the Cunninghams know that the thoughts and prayers of thousands of New Mexicans are with them. We are sorry that Jason isn't coming home and grateful for his service and his sacrifice defending us and our way of life.

Operation Anaconda has been the costliest battle so far in Afghanistan. There will be more battles in this war against terrorism. Let's keep the troops in our thoughts and prayers.

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JAMES R. BROWNING U.S. COURT  
OF APPEALS BUILDING

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2804, legislation to name the U.S. Court of Appeals Building at 7th and Mission Streets in San Francisco, the "James R. Browning U.S. Court of Appeals Building". I first want to commend my good friend and distinguished colleague, Congresswoman NANCY PELOSI, who is the sponsor of this legislation.

It is most appropriate that we name the 100-year-old San Francisco Federal Appeals Court building after Judge James R. Browning in recognition of his 40 years of distinguished service on the federal bench and his service for twelve years—from 1976 to 1988—as Chief Judge of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Browning received his legal education at the University of Montana Law School, where he achieved the highest scholastic record in his class and served as editor-in-chief of the Law Review. After graduation in 1941 Judge Browning joined the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice. Two years later, he answered his country's call and was inducted as a Private in the Army. He served in the Pacific Theater for three years, earning a Bronze Star. Upon his return to the United States, Judge Browning rejoined the Department of Justice, where he

quickly rose to Chief of the Northwest Regional Office of the Antitrust Division, working out of the Seattle office. He was then called back to Washington, DC to become Assistant Chief of the General Litigation Section of the Antitrust Division.

In 1951 Judge Browning moved from the Antitrust Division to the Civil Division of the Department of Justice, and shortly afterwards became Executive Assistant to the Attorney General of the United States. While in this position, he organized and was then appointed Chief of the Executive Office of United States Attorneys. In 1953 Judge Browning left the Department of Justice for private practice as a partner at Perlman, Lyons & Browning, but continued to lecture on Antitrust Law at both the New York University Law School and the Georgetown University Law Center.

Mr. Speaker, after five years in private practice Judge Browning left private practice to become Clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court. In this position he held the Bible at the time John F. Kennedy took the oath of office from Chief Justice Warren when he was sworn in as President in 1961. He was the last Clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court to perform this task. Since 1961, the Bible in all cases has been held by the spouse of the President-elect.

It was President Kennedy who appointed Judge Browning to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1961, where he has remained in service, for over forty years, the longest serving Justice in the history of the Ninth Circuit. Today he is the sole remaining Kennedy appointee serving on any court in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, after serving on the court for 15 years, Judge Browning was elevated to Chief Judge of the Ninth Circuit, which position he held from 1976 to 1988. During his time as Chief Judge, Judge Browning was an influential member of the Judicial Conference of the United States and an active participant in resolving major problems facing the federal judiciary. He has an impressive record of achievement in the Ninth Circuit. Despite calls to reduce the size of the Court, Judge Browning implemented reforms to increase the efficiency of the Court by increasing the number of judges in the Circuit, reducing the enormous backlog of pending case work, and halving the time needed to decide appeals.

With a jurisdiction that includes all the federal courts in California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, Judge Browning utilized computers and information technology to increase the speed and efficiency of the courts. This included creating a computerized case screening and processing system which allowed geographically disparate judges to maintain docket contract and avoid intra-circuit conflicts. Judge Browning also created three geographic administrative subdivisions headed by senior active judges within each region to decentralize decision-making and increase productivity.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Browning emphasized the importance of collegiality and civility among judges on the Ninth Circuit, and encouraged the use of email, telephone conferences, symposia, conferences and other meetings to increase interpersonal contacts and mutual understanding among Ninth Circuit and District Court judges. With these steps, he succeeded in cutting in half the time needed to decide appeals and eliminating the case

backlog at the same time that the circuit expanded in size.

In recognition of his extraordinary service to the federal judiciary Judge Browning was the recipient of the Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award in 1991, and the American Judicature Society's Herbert Harley Award in 1984.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that this legislation will name the San Francisco Federal Appeals Court building after Judge James R. Browning in recognition of 40 years of distinguished service on the federal bench. The building, currently unnamed, is simply known as the Old Post Office Building. It is very fitting that this building in which we uphold justice as enshrined in our constitution, be named after a distinguished jurist who has dedicated his life to upholding our system of justice.

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

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to, somewhat belatedly, congratulate the Girl Scouts of the USA on reaching its 90th anniversary as an organization.

The organization had its origins in 1912 with an 18-girl group in Savannah, Georgia. From those rather humble origins it has grown to its current strength of 3.8 million members, including 900,000 adult members. The Girl Scouts also boast 50 million alumnae. This is the largest organization for girls in the world.

Since the organization's inception, the Girl Scout experience has helped girls acquire self-confidence and expertise, learn to think creatively and develop habits of honor and integrity that are essential in good citizens and great leaders. Many of our educators, doctors, lawyers, elected officials and other community leaders were once Girl Scouts.

The benefits of Girl Scouting are delivered by a dedicated group of people—adult volunteers. Ninety-nine percent of all the adults involved in Girl Scouting are volunteers who give their time to advance the noble goals and purposes of Scouting, teaching their charges about community service, science, money management, health, fitness, and other useful skills and talents. In a time when we are trying to encourage more community involvement, we need to take the time to recognize an organization that has been leading the way for decades.

Again, I am pleased to congratulate this group, which has been such an integral part of the American social fabric, as it reaches an important milestone.

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TRIBUTE TO ALACHUA ELEMEN-  
TARY SCHOOL'S 2002 QUIZ BOWL  
TEAM

**HON. KAREN L. THURMAN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to pay tribute to six remarkable elementary school students, Kyle Carlisle, Kaytlynn

Cunningham, Varsha Ramnarine, Jonathan Stewart, Alexandria Whann, and Courtney Wilkerson, their teacher, Shirley Tanner, and their school for triumphing in the Florida competition of the 2002 National Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl.

Located in Alachua, a tiny city of approximately 6000 people, Alachua Elementary School serves less than 500 students in grades three through five. Principal Jim Brandenburg described the 107-year-old school as a "community school" and credited community involvement for the school's quality, explaining that, "Alachua is a stable community. Many parents and grandparents of our students also attended Alachua Elementary. We don't have a lot of money, but parental involvement and community support help make up for that."

Mr. Brandenburg further states, "There are no shortcuts to quality education. We have resisted the instructional fads that promise instant success and focused on essential skills and good teaching. You can't 'microwave' sustained high achievement in school or anywhere else. It really comes down to high expectations and hard work."

Alachua Elementary is often referred to as "the little school that can . . . and does." It has been honored as a Blue Ribbon school and has received numerous awards for student achievement from the School Board of Alachua County. Furthermore, this is the third consecutive year that Alachua's Quiz Bowl team has won first place in the state. For Alachua, a poor rural school, the win was particularly rewarding since they competed against schools from metropolitan areas of Florida and also private schools across the state.

Mrs. Tanner, Teacher of the Gifted and Technology Resource Teacher, began the school's involvement in this challenging scholastic competition several years ago. The test consists of 100 computer-generated multiple-choice questions covering all school subjects, current events, and trivia. Each fifth-grade student on the team studied incredibly long hours and practiced weekly for over two months to prepare for the competition.

Mrs. Tanner said, "I am far more impressed with their determination and perseverance than by the fact that they won the state competition. They had no idea what questions would be on the test. No notes of any kind may be used during the test; only pencils and paper are permitted. Research, teamwork, and test-taking strategies were the keys to success. Since the total score was based on both speed and accuracy, the team had to be quick calm and knowledgeable about many subjects."

Now let me tell you a little more about these wonderful kids:

Kyle Carlisle, the son of Roy and Ellen Carlisle, became an expert on Government. His leisure time is spent reading and playing computer games of strategy. Kyle's favorite subject is Math. His goal in life is to have a career in Computer Science. Kyle said, "Being on the quiz bowl team was a lot of work, but it was fun." Mrs. Tanner said of him, "The same day that Kyle qualified for the team, he began researching various topics and shared this information with teammates. Kyle was responsible for answering questions on Government and in charge of entering the team's answers via the mouse. He did a flawless job in an extremely stressful position."

Kaytlynn Cunningham, the daughter of John and Nancy Short, became the expert in Language Arts. Her interests include singing, gymnastics, creative writing, bike riding, and swimming. Kaytlynn's favorite subject is Language Arts, and she wants to be a teacher. Her comment was, "I spent a lot of time learning a vast quantity of information, but I know I will be able to use it later in life." Mrs. Tanner commented, "Kaytlynn is a talented young lady. Soon after the 9/11 tragedy, Kaytlynn sang, 'Amazing Grace' at the school's Open House Program. The song was so beautifully and emotionally sung that few dry eyes were in the audience. She regularly appears as a news anchorperson on the school's closed-circuit broadcasting station, WALA."

Varsha Ramnarine, the daughter of Vishnu and Kay Ramnarine, plays softball, reads and plays basketball. She was the team's math expert. Her favorite subject is, of course, Mathematics. Her career desire is to be a pediatrician. She said "The test was not as hard as I expected. Maybe it was because we were prepared." Mrs. Tanner responded, "We would not have scored nearly so well without Varsha's expertise in math concepts and computation. I was amazed at her quick answer to the math questions without the need to compute with pencil and paper."

Jonathan Stewart, the son of Tim and Chris Stewart, spends weekends riding his dirt bike, camping, and playing football. His speciality was Sports and Leisure. His favorite subject is also Mathematics, and Jonathan's career choice is to be a veterinarian. Jonathan commented, "The research was hard and took a lot of time, but it helped prepare us for the test. The hardest lesson to learn, though, was teamwork." Mrs. Tanner remarked, "Jonathan is a quick learner. The team depended on him to answer correctly all the sports questions. Jonathan, a pleasure in the classroom, always wears a mischievous and intriguing smile."

Alexandria Whann, the daughter of Lloyd and Elise Whann, enjoys swimming, piano, and traveling. Her knowledge of Social Studies meant that the team answered the geography questions correctly. Not surprisingly, her favorite subjects are Social Studies and Spelling. Her comment about the team was, "Mrs. Tanner is the best advisor a team could have. She insisted that we do our best." Mrs. Tanner said, "Alex has a marvelous sense of humor and a playful attitude. She really got excited answering questions at the weekly practices, but during the competition, she was calm, confident, and accurate."

Courtney Wilkerson, the daughter of Kenneth and Candis Wilkerson, enjoys reading, swimming, traveling, and creative writing. Her area of expertise was Science, Current Events, and Miscellaneous. Her favorite subject is Mathematics, and she wants to be a lawyer. Courtney's response was, "Studying for the competition was a lot of hard work, but in the end, it was worth it." Mrs. Tanner said "Courtney's contribution cannot be over-emphasized. It seemed that every week in practice, I'd think of something else under the category of 'Miscellaneous' that she needed to learn. She never complained about the additional work."

These six students are to be congratulated for their determination, perseverance, and scholastic aptitude. These qualities were rewarded with a First Place finish in the state of Florida.

COMMENDING THE ACHIEVEMENTS  
OF FERNANDO ZAZUETA

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, we rise to recognize the remarkable achievements of Fernando Zazueta, the Founding Chairman of the Mexican Heritage Corporation of San Jose. Mr. Zazueta is a leader in the community and has been an invaluable friend to us both.

Fernando Zazueta was born in Culiacán, Sinaloa, Mexico and was raised as a migrant farm worker in California. He attended sixteen separate schools before graduating from San Jose High School in 1957, and then from San Jose State University in 1962. During law school, Mr. Zazueta was president of the Ralph Bunche Society of International Law and treasurer of the Law Students Association. As a result of his involvement in the student Court Interpreter Program, Mr. Zazueta published a Law Review article entitled "Attorney's Guide to the Use of Court Interpreters with an English and Spanish Glossary of Criminal Law Terms" and served as a special consultant to Arthur Young and Company in the development and presentation of a statewide study. Fernando Zazueta was a key contributor to a published report for the California Judicial Council regarding an assessment of the language needs of the California population as they related to the California justice system.

Fernando Zazueta has been an active member of local, county, state and national bar associations and served as both treasurer and president of La Raza National Lawyers' Association of California. Mr. Zazueta served on the State Bar Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation for two terms, during which the commission evaluated hundreds of nominees for gubernatorial appointment.

As chairman of the 1979 Community Advisory Council of San Jose Unified School District, Fernando Zazueta examined proposals to alleviate the ethnic and racial isolation of students. Additionally, he has held numerous directorships for nonprofit organizations such as the International Hospitality Center in San Francisco, the San Jose Museum of Art, and the San Jose Convention and Visitor's Bureau. He served on the Board of the San Jose Unified Educational Foundation, which raises over \$100,000 for school sports through its annual Celebrity Waiters Luncheon.

Fernando Zazueta has been the founder and Board Chairman of the Mexican Heritage Corporation since 1988, and headed an effort by the corporation to complete the Mexican Heritage Plaza, a \$34 million cultural center in East San Jose. Mr. Zazueta has also been instrumental in establishing an annual civic recognition of the founding of the Pueblo de San Jose de Guadalupe as the first civil settlement in California.

Fernando Zazueta's other civic and volunteer contributions are too numerous for us to list here. He has been an integral part of our community for as long as we can remember, for which we are truly grateful. As a friend and as a neighbor, his dedication and enthusiasm is treasured.

IN HONOR OF GREEK  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, as we read daily about the difficult fight for freedom that our armed forces are undertaking around the world, let us consider the similarly difficult mission that the people of Greece fought 181 years ago.

On March 25, 1821, Greek citizens, who were at that time living under the oppressive tyranny of the Ottoman Empire, united together to rise up and courageously fight an overwhelming enemy. Though they were many times outnumbered on the battlefield, they endured and ultimately defeated the Ottomans because of the values for which they fought, namely independence and freedom. More powerful than the weapons of the Ottomans, these values provided the inspiration to fight with conviction and purpose.

Today, the United States of America and Greece unite together in a stand against the forces of terrorism. Though this time the numbers of those fighting are to our advantage, our enemy is extremely deceptive, unpredictable, and willing to attack innocent people.

The noble War of Independence that the Greeks fought reminds us today that freedom and independence do not come without cost. We call upon these righteous values held by Greeks and Americans alike to endure these difficult times. Just as Greece defeated its enemy and gained sovereignty, we will defeat our enemy and preserve our freedom.

I stand today to reaffirm our solidarity with Greece and to celebrate their Independence Day from which we can draw much inspiration during our own time of war.

ON THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE DAILY CARDINAL

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to the oldest student newspaper on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus, The Daily Cardinal, on its 110th anniversary on April 4. The Daily Cardinal is a steady and celebrated component of campus life—as vital a presence as the Union Terrace, Camp Randall, or Bascom Hall.

For more than a century, The Daily Cardinal has informed students, faculty, and staff on the UW-Madison campus. Through the years, the paper's staff has met serious challenges with courage and determination while maintaining standards of journalistic excellence.

The success of The Daily Cardinal must be attributed to its hardworking staff members, past and present, who juggle their roles as students and journalists or businesspeople, often with little or no recognition. The enduring success of The Daily Cardinal is most certainly due to their dedication and hard work.

It's truly an honor for me to represent the students, faculty, and staff of the UW-Madison

and especially those who sustain its award-winning student paper, The Daily Cardinal.

THE MEDICAL COST DEDUCTION  
ACT OF 2002

**HON. PHILIP M. CRANE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my friend and colleague Mr. Johnson of Texas to introduce the Medical Cost Deduction Act of 2002. This legislation makes health care more affordable by allowing individuals to deduct most of their medical expenditures that exceed 2 percent of their Adjusted Gross Income (AGI).

The rising costs of health care are a major concern for many Americans. Whether it is increased costs in health insurance premiums or the high cost of prescription drugs that seniors pay out of their own pocket, if it is unaffordable, many of these individuals will go without necessary health care treatment. The Medical Cost Deduction Act will help lower the tax burden and help families defray the rising costs of health care.

Since 1942, taxpayers that itemize have been able to deduct health care costs that are in excess of a statutory percentage of their AGI. The current threshold where deductions begin is after 7.5 percent of AGI. Because of this relatively high floor, few taxpayers that itemize can reduce their taxable income through the existing deduction because their unreimbursed medical expenses are unlikely to exceed 7.5 percent of their AGI. For instance, under current law, a taxpayer with an income of \$30,000 would need to have out-of-pocket health care costs of \$2,250 before they could begin taking deductions. Under my proposal that reduces the AGI requirement to 2 percent, that same taxpayer can start taking medical care deductions after \$600 in expenses.

Back in 1954 when the threshold for deductibility of health expenses was lowered from 5 percent to 3 percent, the House Ways and Means Committee included in its report that there is a "general agreement that limiting the deduction only to expenses in excess of 5 percent of AGI does not allow the deduction of all extraordinary medical expenses." By lowering the deduction for medical expenses to 2 percent of AGI seniors may be able to better afford necessary medications and individuals may be better able to afford increased health care premiums. Mr. Speaker, I ask for my colleagues for their consideration and support of the Medical Costs Deduction Act.

CANADA LOVES NEW YORK

**HON. AMO HOUGHTON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, as we passed the six month mark since September 11th, I was reminded of one of the more exuberant showings of support from one of our nation's strongest allies. Our good neighbor to the north, Canada.

On September 11, 2001, Canadians shared the pain brought on by the events of that morning. Many Canadians wondered what they could do. Our good friend, Canadian Senator Jerry Grafstein, Co-Chair of our U.S.-Canada Interparliamentary Group, was one of the first to contact me to express his condolences and to commiserate. He, like everyone, wanted to know what he could do to help.

Then, following Mayor Giuliani's speech at the United Nations where he invited the world to come to New York to help get things back to normal, Jerry and many of his friends decided that the best thing they could do would be to organize a weekend for Canadians to visit New York en masse, contribute to the economy of New York, and physically show their support.

Almost immediately, Jerry, his wife Carole, and a handful of outstanding volunteers from the Toronto area went to work.

Publishers of the leading newspapers in Toronto ran full-page ads. TV and radio quickly followed suit. Canadian stars in sports and entertainment rallied to create several ads in support of the venture, each taping 30–60 second spots at no cost. Even movie theater owners offered to run the ads when the Harry Potter movie opened in cinemas across Canada.

Other businesses made in-kind and monetary donations to the effort including Air Canada, who made discount air fares to New York available from across Canada.

New Yorkers also made generous donations to the effort. The Roseland Ballroom was made available at a very nominal rate and venue insurance was donated. Owners of the large screens in Times Square offered to run the ads for free to attract the thousands of Canadians living in New York to the event. Mayor Giuliani issued a proclamation declaring December 1, 2001, "Canada Loves New York Day" in New York City. President Bush also sent a message commending the volunteers for their efforts.

It was thought that three to four thousand Canadians would attend the rally on December 1st. It is estimated that over 26,000 people actually did attend. Many of them didn't even get near the Roseland Ballroom, but no one complained. It was a tremendous event—one that I will not soon forget.

So, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to thank Senator Grafstein and all of the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make that effort a tremendous success. It is another in a long list of reasons as to why the United States and Canada are the closest of allies.

TRIBUTE TO MONMOUTH COUNTY  
FOODBANK

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties in the 6th District of New Jersey.

On Friday, February 22, the FoodBank formally celebrated the opening of its new 42,000 square feet warehouse facility at 3300 Route 66, Neptune Township. Member charities and invited guests toured the new facility. A dedication ceremony honored Arthur M. Goldberg,

for whom the facility is named, for his generosity as a major contributor to the building campaign.

Other guests included major contributors, member charities, volunteers and political dignitaries who have played important roles in enabling the FoodBank to build the facility.

The FoodBank currently distributes over 2.5 million pounds of emergency food annually to more than 200 church and synagogue food pantries, soup kitchens, shelter for the homeless, shelter for abused women and children, day care programs for low-income children and homes for the elderly and disabled throughout Monmouth and Ocean counties.

The new facility will enable the FoodBank to provide more food for those in need. With the additional space, new programs will also be started that impact on the root causes of hunger. These include a job skills program in culinary arts and community gardens that will help people to grow some of their own food.

For continuing to make a difference in the community fighting hunger, the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties warrants praise. Their new warehouse facility is a great step forward in their cause.

HONORING THE 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA

**HON. KEN BENTSEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the Republic of Tunisia's 46th anniversary on March 20, 2001. It was 46 years ago that the Republic of Tunisia was formally established as an independent country. Over the years, Tunisia has forged a strong and solid relationship with the United States that extends beyond bilateral ties to issues of world peace and economic partnership.

The close and solid relationship between Tunisia and the United States at the bilateral level has steadily grown from U.S. assistance to the young Tunisian nation in the early years to a constructive and fruitful partnership between two countries for the sake of development and prosperity. This relationship entered a new important phase when Tunisia joined the coalition to fight the scourge of terrorism in the wake of the September 11th attacks.

The population of Tunisia numbers approximately 9.6 million inhabitants, with more than 62 percent in urban areas. The official language of Tunisia is Arabic, while French and Italian are also spoken. Increasingly, English is also spoken among a growing number of Tunisians. The overwhelming majority of the population is Muslim, and the official religion is Sunni Islam. Christian and Jewish communities practice their faith freely and contribute to Tunisia's rich cultural diversity. The family remains the basic unit of Tunisian society. Enjoying total equality of rights with men, women have gained a good measure of autonomy and are able to pursue their own careers on an equal footing with men. Tunis, the capital, with a population of about one million, is one of the principal cosmopolitan urban centers of the Mediterranean.

Strengthened by economic achievements in recent years, Tunisia is starting the new mil-

lennium with confidence and serenity. It expects to reinforce and deepen the reforms it has initiated in order to face the challenges of the new stage and integrate its productive system into the world economy. Tunisia continues to be a model for developing countries. It has sustained remarkable economic growth and undertaken reforms toward political pluralism.

Mr. Speaker, Tunisia continues to preserve the safety and security of its people and to protect its borders while moving ahead with deliberate and steadfast conviction to further strengthen the democratic values that our two countries share as foundations for free and open societies. I wish to congratulate the citizens of Tunisia and its elected officials as they commemorate their 46th Anniversary and wish them the best for many more years of continued peace and prosperity.

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, last week marked the 90th anniversary of the Girl Scouts of the USA. Founded on March 12, 1912, with the belief that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually, Juliette Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia, for the first Girl Scout meeting. From its initial 18 members, the Girl Scouts flourished to today's membership of over 3.8 million.

The mission of the Girl Scouts is to provide a venue where young girls can learn and develop the necessary skills to help them reach their full potential. They have also implemented successful programs, opening up more opportunities for girls in areas such as sports, technology, and science.

Girl Scouts are given the self-confidence that is important to developing active citizens and superior leaders. President Bush recently requested that every American perform 4,000 hours of community service over their lifetime and the Girl Scouts are in step with the President's challenge. The San Diego chapter boasts a volunteer rate of 90 percent among its girls in such projects as helping out in hospitals and planning nature trails.

I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Girl Scouts for providing 90 years of positive guidance to our nation's young women and future leaders.

POSTHUMOUS TRIBUTE TO THE LATE REV. JOSEPH COATS

**HON. CARRIE P. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of our community's most genuine and unsung leaders, the late Rev. Joseph Coats. Indeed, he was also one of the noblest of God's faithful servants. His untimely demise last Sunday, March 3, 2002 leaves a deep void in our leadership toward our ongo-

ing struggle to achieve equality of opportunity and unity among all people.

Born in Alamo, Georgia on January 28, 1927, he married Catherine Coats in 1949. Eight children were born out of this blessed union, with one son preceding him in death. He received his Theology degree from South Bible Seminary, and was subsequently ordained a minister on April 23, 1966. He was then assigned the pastorship of the Glendale Baptist Church in South Miami's Richmond Heights community. In the early days of his ministry his congregation numbered only 150 members. He would pick up in his old station wagon other members who had no way to get to church.

Historic milestones defined Rev. Coats' life of service. In 1969 he led his church in becoming the first African-American church to join the white Southern Baptist Convention. Predictably, his fellow Black ministers castigated him to no end for this move. They even ostracized him. When queried about this stance, he was wont to firmly state that ". . . we simply taught Christ here—not black and white. I preached impartiality and unity, and our members saw people as people . . ."

With great Faith in pursuing God's mission for him, he courageously persevered during that very trying period until such time when many more African American churches joined the Convention. Rev. Coats served as Pastor of Glendale for 30 years before he retired. Upon his retirement the congregation grew to some 3,000, although thousands more continue to flock to his revered church eager to hear him preach God's good news of salvation and redemption.

My state of Florida and most specifically, Miami-Dade County on the southern end, will surely miss his wisdom and expertise. The longevity of his commitment to the well-being of the less fortunate among us, particularly the voiceless and the underrepresented, has indeed become legendary. When I think of his early work in his church's involvement with the civil rights movement, it parallels much of Florida's and the nation's history as we struggled through the harrowing challenges of racial equality and simple justice.

I came to know this quintessential man of God in his understanding of and commitment to the underdogs of our community. Blessed with a lucid common sense and a quick grasp of the issues at hand, Rev. Coats was also blessed with the rare wisdom of recognizing both the strengths and limitations of those who have been empowered to govern. The acumen of his intelligence and the timeliness of his vision were felt at a time when our community and the state of Florida needed someone to put in perspectives the simmering agony of disenfranchised African-Americans and other minorities yearning to belong and pursue the American Dream.

I vividly recall the times when government and community leaders met to douse the still-burning embers of Liberty City and Overtown during the racial disturbances in the early 1980s. His was the firm voice of reason and the steadying influence of conscience. Wisely, he articulated his credo that we have got to learn to live and reach out to each other, or run the risk of shamefully reaping the grapes of wrath from those who have been left out.

Rev. Coats truly exemplified a calm but reasoned leadership whose courage and advocacy appealed to our noblest character as a

nation. While he will be missed by the men and women of good will in my community and beyond, I will join my constituents in celebrating the wonderful gift of his life at the funeral services this Monday, March 11, 2002 at Glendale Baptist Church. We will honor and thank God for sending Rev. Coats to grace our paths and take up our struggles at a time when we most needed him.

My pride in sharing his friendship is only exceeded by my eternal gratitude for all that he has sacrificed on our behalf. This is the magnificent legacy by which we will honor his memory.

IN HONOR OF JUSTICE HUGH J.  
O'FLAHERTY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former member of the Supreme Court of Ireland, Justice Hugh J. O'Flaherty as an honored guest to our country and to welcome him to celebrate St. Patrick's day with the Cleveland law firm, Collins & Scanlon. Justice O'Flaherty displayed integrity, character, and intelligence throughout his nine year tenure on the Court. We are fortunate to have him visit our country and share his knowledge.

Hugh J. O'Flaherty, was born in Killarney, County Kerry, Ireland. He studied law at the University College in Dublin. He was called to the Bar of Ireland in 1959 and became senior counsel in 1974. In 1990 Mr. O'Flaherty was appointed to the Supreme Court of Ireland. The court holds jurisdiction similar to the Supreme Court of the United States. Justice O'Flaherty carried out his duties with sound judgement and expertise. He has shared his wisdom by lecturing at the law schools at Fordham University and Duquesne University and by addressing numerous bar conferences in the United States as well as Australia.

I ask my colleagues to join me in rising to honor this truly remarkable individual for his distinguished years of service to Ireland's judicial system.

OPPOSING CERTIFICATION OF  
SERBIA

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my opposition to certification of Serbia to receive U.S. assistance. Belgrade has not met the conditions included in the law by Senator MITCH MCCONNELL and does not deserve to be certified by President Bush. As my colleagues are aware, certification must take place by March 31, 2002.

Until Serbia releases all of the Albanian prisoners under its control, stops funding parallel institutions in Bosnia and Kosovo, protects minority rights and the rule of law, and fully cooperates with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, it should not be certified to receive assistance from the

United States. While I look forward to the day when Belgrade is a constructive and cooperative player in the Balkans, the President must apply the standards Congress has laid down in law and deny certification.

In support of this position I include a letter from Richard Lukaj, Chairman of the Board of the National Albanian American Council, in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

*March 17, 2002.*

DEAR SENATOR/REPRESENTATIVE: On March 31, 2002, the United States Congress will consider Serbia's eligibility for continued U.S. donor assistance. The National Albanian American Council would like to share with you some of its concerns, as well as point out Serbia's failure to fulfill any of the conditions posed by Congress last year.

According to Congress's decision, financial assistance to Serbia will continue after March 31, 2002 only if the President has made the determination and certification that Serbia is:

Cooperating with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia including access for investigators, the provision of documents, and the surrender and transfer of indictees or assistance in their apprehension;

Taking steps to implement policies which reflect a respect for minority rights and the rule of law, including the release of political prisoners from Serbian jails and prisons, and

Taking steps that are consistent with the Dayton Accords to end Serbian financial, political, security and other support which has served to maintain separate Republika Srpska institutions.

A quick overview of these conditions indicates that Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) have failed to comply with any of them, and moreover, they have engaged in additional actions that run counter to Congress' intent and the administration's efforts to bring peace and stability to the region.

COOPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL  
CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL

The trial of former Yugoslav dictator Slobodan Milosevic at the ICTY raised the hopes of many in the Balkans that the victims of war crimes will finally see justice being served. However, while the new Serbian government extradited Milosevic to The Hague at the last moment in a clear attempt to get financial support, it is doing disappointingly little to cooperate with the ICTY in the arrest of other indicted war criminals. Just last month, the Tribunal's Chief Prosecutor, Carla Del Ponte, labeled Yugoslav president Vojislav Kostunica as the "chief obstacle" to cooperation and denounced his direct complicity in the efforts to protect Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb general wanted by ICTY for masterminding and executing some of the most heinous crimes against humanity during the Bosnian war. Recently, the Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic emphatically stated that his government would make no efforts whatsoever to apprehend Mladic.

In addition, four other Milosevic associates wanted for war crimes committed in Kosovo remain free men and actively engage in high governmental or military positions. One of the indicted war criminals, Milan Milutinovic, maintains his post as president of Serbia, while Dragoljub Ojdanic, the former Chief of Staff of the Yugoslav Army, continues to hold a high ranking post within the Yugoslav Army. On March 9th, Kostunica's party, a key member of the ruling alliance, refused to endorse a draft law on cooperation with the UN Hague Tribunal. Moreover, both Kostunica and Djindjic, rather than seizing the opportunity presented by

Milosevic's trial to initiate a debate within Serbia on the issue of war crimes, have instead made statements denouncing the Tribunal as the "last hole on the flute," thus seriously undermining its legitimacy and credibility in the eyes of the Serbian public.

These and additional facts are mentioned in the recently published human rights report by the U.S. Department of State. The report forthrightly notes that "[w]ith the exception of the transfer of Slobodan Milosevic and a few other war criminals, the Government's cooperation with the Yugoslav War Crimes Tribunal (ICTY) decreased significantly during the year. [ . . . ] [A]t year's end, several indictees remained at liberty, and, in at least one case, still in an official position in Serbia." The report further states that the FRY government "has been uncooperative in requests for documents regarding crimes committed by Serbs against other ethnic groups, and in arranging interviews with official and nongovernmental witnesses."

Clearly, the post-Milosevic governments of Serbia and Yugoslavia are failing utterly in keeping their international commitments for cooperating with the ICTY. The Secretary of State should use the upcoming March 31 cut-off date for U.S. assistance to the FRY government to press for full cooperation by the FRY government with the ICTY. The administration, too, should signal to Belgrade and beyond that it values international justice, and overcome perceptions that it does not fully support the tribunal's work.

RELEASE OF ALBANIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS  
FROM JAILS AND PRISONS AND THE RULE OF  
LAW

Despite Congress' unequivocal language and the pressure from the international community, Serbia continues to hold hostage 157 Kosovar Albanian prisoners, rounded up and transported to Serbia during the withdrawal of Serb forces from Kosovo in 1999. These prisoners were tried in artificially created courts, tortured brutally, and forced to make false confessions under extreme duress. While President Kostunica frequently claims his respect for the rule of law, he has too easily overlooked many of the legal discrepancies involved in the cases of the Albanian prisoners. To date, Mr. Kostunica has overturned just two cases and this only after direct intervention by leading political figures of the international community.

The recently published human rights report by the U.S. Department of State also has indicated Serbia's failure to adequately address the issue of these prisoners, alongside a host of other problems in its treatment of minority populations. We could not agree more with what Senator Helms stated in the floor debate last year: "Each day Belgrade keeps people like Albin Kurti, Isljam Taci, Berisa Petrit, and Sulejman Bitici [Albanian political prisoners] locked behind bars is another day that Belgrade has continued the horrors and injustice of the Milosevic regime. And this is totally unacceptable." The United States Congress, as well as the international community, should condemn any attempt by the Serb and FRY authorities to continue to use these Albanian prisoners as hostages, should resist the temptation to equate them with ordinary convicted criminals, and should ask for their immediate and unconditional release.

Furthermore, the reality of today's Serbia and FRY is very far from our country's notions of the rule of law. Aside rampant corruption and organized crime, the government and the justice system in Serbia and FRY not only are failing to bring about any resemblance of rule of law and justice in their

country, but are engaged in systematic efforts to obstruct justice by destroying all evidence pertaining to war crimes issues. In the words of Natasa Kandic, a leading Serb Human Rights activist, even "judges, prosecutors and police chiefs are destroying any remaining papers that might implicate them [for war crimes in Kosova], forging documents, and testing the strength of the wall of silence." For example, despite the concern expressed by Senator McConnell last year, the investigation into the murder of the three American brothers of Albanian descent from New York, cold bloodedly killed after the war and whose remains were found in a mass grave in Serbia, had not started as late as February 4, 2002 according to Ms. Kandic.

Ironically, even Vojislav Sescelj, leader of the nationalist Serbian Radical Party has recently accused police generals Sreten Lukic and Goran Radosvljevic of "initiating, organizing, transporting, and burying bodies of Kosovar Albanians in locations near Belgrade" and accused the "authorities for keeping quiet about it!" Over 800 hundred bodies of Albanians found in mass graves in Serbia are under the supervision of the head of the Serb police since April, 2001. There has been no effort to return these bodies to the families in Kosova. As Ms. Kandic so poignantly writes " [N]o more questions are asked in Serbia about mass graves, the people whose remains are buried in them, their names, how they died, who gave the orders, who carried them out, and who covered up the evidence." Instead, Serbia's own Milosevic is cheered by the public and politicians as a star in a basketball game.

ENDING SERBIAN FINANCIAL, POLITICAL, SECURITY AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF SEPARATE OR PARALLEL INSTITUTIONS IN BOSNIA AS WELL AS KOSOVA

Although this letter is not focused on Serbia's or FRY's relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is relevant to mention that instead of taking steps towards complying with this condition, Serbia and the FRY have been very obstructionist to the Dayton Peace Accords in a variety of ways. The FRY has never ratified the Accords and continues to finance the entire Republika Srpska Army (VRS) and security forces. Furthermore, VRS command and control structures tie directly into Yugoslav Army structures, violating Annex 1-A of the Dayton Peace Accords.

On top of violating Dayton Peace Accords, Serbia and the FRY are in clear violation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244. Belgrade continues to finance and maintain illegal parallel administrative, police, and security structures in Kosova. Paradoxically, a large quantity of the funds that supports these illegal parallel structures is drawn from international aid and potentially from assistance that is given by the United States. According to Deputy Premier Nebojsa Covic, Serbia has on its payroll as many as 29,800 people who illegally operate inside Kosova. The most visible example are the so called "bridge-watchers" in the town of Mitrovica who, in an all too clear attempt to partition this territory from the rest of Kosova, violently prevent the free movement of the Albanian population into their own homes as well as do not allow the Government of Kosova and the UNMIK representatives to establish and assert their authority in the northern part of the town. Covic himself has admitted that these troops operate under Belgrade's control and with Belgrade's direct financial support.

OTHER ACTIONS OR INACTIONS THAT PRESENT A THREAT TO THE REGIONAL STABILITY

In addition to the failure to fulfill the conditions posed by the U.S. Congress, Belgrade continues to present a threat to the regional

stability by refusing to take responsibility for the carnage and suffering its predecessors instigated in this last decade but instead choosing to continue fuel nationalistic and hate propaganda to their constituents, as well as by embarking in a foreign policy agenda that is a prelude of further destabilization.

As it is clearly stated in a recent report by a well known international think tank (attached herein), in Serbia, the parliament, media, and even its religious institutions frequently serve as a setting and an instrument for the most blatant and prejudiced hate speeches particularly against Albanians, Jews, and other minority groups. While Yugoslav officials led by President Kostunica himself have firmly discouraged any efforts to openly and honestly face the past and tell the Serbian public the truth for the events of this past decade, Serbia's leaders, including Serbian Premier Zoran Djindjic and Deputy Premier Nebojsa Covic, have been all too willing to continue to refer to all Albanians as "terrorists," just as Milosevic is doing in the Hague, in a clear attempt to exploit to their political advantage our country's tragedy of September 11 and raise discontent among America's politicians and public towards Albanians. This at a time when it is widely known, and recently confirmed by a Gallup poll, that together with Israel, Albanians are after September 11, as well as before, among the strongest supporters of the United States in the world, second only to the American people.

Furthermore, Belgrade has set sail in a foreign policy agenda that is a prelude of further regional destabilization. There are clear indications that Belgrade and Skopje are forging anti-Albanian alliances with anti-Western character. For example, despite the efforts of the United States and the international community to discourage the selling of weapons to Skopje, according to Macedonian sources, Belgrade is the second biggest supplier of military aid after Ukraine. It is noteworthy that while the military structures of Albanians in Kosova, FYROM, and Southern Serbia have kept their promises and have demilitarized beyond the extent required by the international community, while the U.S. is contemplating a reduction of the U.S. forces in the region and has suggested the same for the military structures of the Republic of Albania, all of Albanian's neighbors are continuously beefing up their military arsenal, dangerously shifting the military balances in the area.

Most importantly, in a clear provocation to the Kosovar Albanians and to the authority of the United Nations, last year Belgrade and Skopje signed an agreement that attempts to change Kosova's borders and gives away 2500 hectares (close to 6000 acres) of Kosova's land to FYROM. This move has been widely rejected by the Kosovar Albanian political leaders as well as the population at large. This agreement should not be endorsed or supported by the United States Congress and Administration as it creates the dangerous precedent of giving Belgrade the authority to give away Kosova's territory in complete disregard of the United Nations mandate over Kosova as well as against the will of Kosova's citizens.

These actions do not contribute to peace and stability. On the contrary, they are designed to stir up tensions, provoke the Albanian population, and then present them as the source of instability in the region and thus justify FRY's actions and inactions and thereby divert attention from problems within the FRY and originating in Belgrade.

CONCLUSION

The failure of Serbia and FRY to fully cooperate with ICTY, the refusal to release the

Albanian prisoners, its continued maintenance and support of illegal parallel structures inside Kosova, the unwillingness of Belgrade to openly face and denounce the calamity its predecessors have caused, the continued tolerance and active support for hate speech and similar mentality, the highly destabilizing and provocative actions in relation to its neighbors, all confirm that Belgrade continues to be a source of future tension and instability in the region and as such, it should not be rewarded by the United States Congress and the international community.

Upon the fall of the Milosevic regime, Yugoslavia was readmitted to the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. While in our opinion, such reinstatement was done hastily and without full guarantees of cooperation and compliance, Belgrade's further reintegration and the financial aid it receives from the United States and the rest of the world should be conditional upon at least the following:

In relation with cooperation with ICTY the FRY should: (1) Transfer all indictees to The Hague, including those on active political or military duty as well as the retired officials. (2) Provide ICTY access to all relevant archives and documents. (3) Clearly and visibly change its policy of public denigration and dismissive attitude towards the ICTY and its legitimacy. (4) Provide information and assistance in tracing Milosevic's and other criminals' funds be them in Serbia or in illegal bank accounts in Greece or elsewhere. (5) Provide information on the discovery of other known mass graves located in Serbia.

In relation with Kosova the FRY should: (1) Release all the remaining Kosovar Albanian prisoners. (2) Stop financing, training, and operating parallel security forces and counterintelligence personnel as well as parallel civilian administrative structures. (3) Support (and not hinder) the Kosovar Government and UNMIK efforts to assert their authority in the north of Kosova. (4) Stop all efforts to depict Albanians as "terrorists" but rather publicly admit their wrongdoing as an important good will effort towards reconciliation. (5) Return to their families the bodies of the Albanians found in mass graves.

In relation with its neighbors the FRY must demonstrate its commitment to regional peace and stability by: (1) Not hindering international community's efforts to sustain peace in FYROM. (2) Discontinuing to funnel and sell weapons to FYROM in a clear disregard of international community's will and policy (3) by bringing to an end its efforts to stir up tensions in the region by forging dubious alliances and signing and attempting to enforce provocative agreements.

As the U.S. Administration and Congress assist the FRY in the quest for normalization, it must face—and act on—the reality that the FRY still causes significant regional instability and is not in compliance with the conditions established under the impending March 31, 2002 deadline. No matter what actions the Yugoslav or Serbian government takes out of pragmatism in these remaining few weeks, we urge our government to insist on a clear and clean break of the current Yugoslav and Serb government from the policies and practices of its predecessor. It should do so by refusing to certify Serbia's eligibility for further U.S. assistance, by not extending the Most Favorite Nation status to FRY, and by insisting that all the above-listed conditions are fulfilled before FRY's efforts for further integration in the international community are endorsed.

We as Albanian-Americans are looking forward to the time when Serbia will become a constructive player that contributes to the

peaceful and harmonious development of Southeastern Europe. However, until that time comes, our Congress and the international community must avoid the temptation to bend the rules for Belgrade and must hold FRY to the same high standards that have been rightly required of other countries in the area.

On behalf of the National Albanian American Council,

RICHARD LUKAJ,  
Chairman, Board of Trustees.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF MR. LES CAMPBELL

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the public service contributions of Mr. Les Campbell of Belchertown, MA. Mr. Campbell's work as a nature and wildlife photographer is well known in Massachusetts' First District and throughout New England. In addition to founding several photography organizations and serving as an active or honorary member of countless others, Mr. Campbell is a tireless resource for the young photographers with whom he enjoys sharing his knowledge. Mr. Campbell, now retired, was a lifelong government employee at the Quabbin Reservoir. He has been a champion for keeping that magnificent body of water untouched by development.

On March 29, 2002 The Valley Portfolio, a community photographic resource center in Springfield, MA will present to Mr. Campbell a lifetime achievement award at a reception. On this day, members of our community will gather to celebrate his contributions and accomplishments. Mr. Campbell's awards and citations could fill a gallery. He may be the only photographer ever to receive four awards from the Photographic Society of America: (1) the Buxton Award (1958) as the world's leading exhibitor of nature prints that year, (2) the Stuyvescent Peabody Award (1972) as "the PSA member who has contributed the most to pictorial photography," (3) the Victor H. Scales award (1973) for "diligent and meritorious service to photography and the Society and especially for his untiring efforts to teach and interest young people in photography and the arts," and (4) the Appreciation Award (1981), the Society's highest award and the only one selected by its officers.

Mr. Campbell's organizational skills are legendary among those who have served alongside him in the various clubs and organizations he founded to which he belonged. In 1967 he originated Focus: Outdoors, an annual three-day environmental conference that drew as many as 1,000 participants. Mr. Campbell was named an honorary member of the New England Camera Club Council in 1968, that organization's highest award.

As president of the New England Camera Club Council he took a sleepy organization with only 13 member clubs and increased that number to 83, increased the council's treasury from less than \$25 to more than \$7,000, and created a weekend conference at the University of Massachusetts that grew from 300 to 2,000 participants in five years.

Most recently, Mr. Campbell began the Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists, a group of

talented photographers committed to elevating photography's role as a fine art.

Mr. Campbell's skills also extend to the mechanical side of photography. He invented the Vis-0-Tray slide storage and editing system in the 1960s to facilitate organizing slides for presentations. To photograph water skiers, he created a special platform on the towboat that has since been copied by other photographers.

Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to thank Mr. Les Campbell for his creative and positive influence on the art of photography in our community.

GILMAN INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to inform my colleagues of the success of the Gilman International Scholarship Program established to benefit low income college students receiving benefits in its first year of operation. Our Scholarship Program sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and administered by Institute of International Education, encourages American students to study abroad by providing specified grants. This is an opportunity to gain knowledge and experience first hand that they may not have otherwise due to the costs.

In the 2001-2002 academic year 302 awards were made to students from among 2,771 applicants from 44 states plus Puerto Rico. The awards were split with 68 percent going to semester long programs, 24 percent to academic year programs, and 8 percent to quarter and other programs. These numbers by themselves are impressive, however, when they are combined with the number of states and institutions represented it gets even better. These students represent 172 different colleges, universities, and community colleges. I am proud that this Scholarship Program has reached such a broad cross-section of eligible students. Moreover, it is gratifying that 32 percent of that cross-section represents minority students.

Our Scholarship Program is placing students in countries other than the more traditional Western Europe states. I am happy to note that only 41 percent of our students have studied in Western Europe. Asia and Oceania drew 28 percent of our participants and the Western Hemisphere drew 17 percent. The remaining 14 percent chose either Africa, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, or had a program that allowed them to travel to multiple regions. It is gratifying that with the world opening to them these participants chose to take advantage of it and study in every region available to them. The idea of an open world also carries over to the fields of study represented. There are 41 different fields represented between the 4 different programs offered.

The I.I.E and State Department have admirably implemented this program, and the reward is with the number of students seeking to participate. With such interest, I hope our scholarship will continue to grow to provide more students with this excellent opportunity.

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM STATISTICAL OVERVIEW: ACADEMIC YEAR 2002

Total applications received: 2771.  
Total awards: 302.  
Home States represented: 39 plus DC and PR.  
Institutions represented: 170.  
Destination countries: 41.  
\$5000 awards given 261  
\$3000 awards given 41

LENGTH OF STUDY ABROAD

Semester: 69%.  
Academic/full year: 25%.

ETHNICITY (AS REPORTED BY APPLICANT)

Asian or Pacific Islander: 12%.  
Black/Non-Hispanic: 11%.  
Hispanic: 8%.  
White: 55%.  
Other: 5%.  
No answer given: 9%.

WORLD REGION DISTRIBUTION (USING COUNTRY OF DESTINATION)

Africa: 8%.  
Asia and Oceania: 29%.  
Middle East: 1%.  
Europe(including Russia & NIS): 42%.  
Western Hemisphere: 20%.

GENDER

Female: 72%.  
Male: 28%.

LEVEL OF STUDY

Freshman: 1%.  
Sophomore: 10%.  
Junior: 53%.  
Senior: 36%.

REPRESENTATIVE CAPPS RE-  
MARKS TO THE AMERICAN MED-  
ICAL ASSOCIATION

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to the skill, tenacity, and leadership of our colleague and my friend, Rep. LOIS CAPPS. I have served with many fine people over the course of my career in the House of Representatives and she is among the best. She fights every day for the people of her district, and for causes that affect virtually every member of our society. She does this with great skill and even greater courage. I have come to admire her strength, compassion, commitment, and drive. It is with great respect and affection that I request that a copy of her recent remarks to the American Medical Association be included in the Record. I recommend that all of my colleagues read them with great care.

STATEMENT OF REP. LOIS CAPPS, AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE, MARCH 10, 2002

OPENING

Thank you very much for inviting me here to speak today. It is an honor to spend some time with my colleagues in health care.

I have been asked to speak to you about the Democratic Party's agenda on health care.

But I am not sure there should be a separate "Democratic" or "Republican" agenda on health.

Though politics often suffuses the debate about health care, we should not come at this issue from a political perspective.

I have only recently in my life become an elected official. And I do not consider myself as simply a politician.

Instead, I think of myself in the terms that defined the forty years of my career before I came to Washington.

I am a nurse. I am a health care provider. It is my calling. And I think of myself in my new job as just a different kind of health care provider. I may have traded in my nursing uniform and medical equipment for legislation and committee action. But my goal is still the same. I am obliged to care for the health of my patients, whether they are the students in the Santa Barbara school system, the patients in Yale New Haven Hospital, or the seniors on Medicare across America. And I am proud to bring the benefits of this lifetime of nursing experience to the halls of Congress. And I think my experience has taught me well. As medical professionals we have learned that we need to carefully examine symptoms, check vitals, run tests, and thoughtfully consider our options. Then we select the best course of action we can think of.

We don't look at the label on a medication to see if it has a D or an R on it. We don't look to see if Tom Daschle or George Bush recommended a particular treatment. We call on all of our medical training and professional experience. We often consult other doctors and nurses, because we have learned that health care is better when provided by a team. And this is how the Congress needs to approach the challenges facing today's health care system.

Most of my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, are genuinely interested in reaching across party lines to come up with good solutions. But a few are more interested in opposing the other party's members than in solving our problems. They are unwilling to engage in a debate on the issues, but would rather stymie their opponents ideas, be they Republican or Democrat, for political gain.

I am a nurse. Sen. Kyl is a lawyer. My colleague, the Ranking Member of the Health Subcommittee, Sherrod Brown is a teacher. Rep. Ganske is a doctor and Rep. Norwood is a dentist. Some of us are Democrats and some of us are Republicans. It is going to take all of our varied experience, expertise, and perspectives to develop real solutions to the challenges we face today.

#### OVERVIEW

And we face real challenges. A few minutes ago I suggested that Congress should treat health care problems the way a doctor treats a patient. So let's do that now.

Let's check our nation's health care vital signs and look at some of its symptoms. There are 125,000 vacant nursing positions across the country. Physician fees under Medicare have grown 13% less than the costs of practice since 1992. Approximately 56 million Americans are not protected by any state or federal patient protections. 40 million Americans are on Medicare. 78 million baby boomers will start to join them in the next decade. Annual spending on prescription drugs by seniors has grown 116%, from \$18.5 billion in 1992 to \$42.9 billion in 2000. And 43 million Americans are without health insurance of any kind.

These are not strong and stable vital signs. They point to several problems we must address in order to get our patient, the health of our nation, out of critical care.

#### NURSING

First of all we have to make sure that the health care infrastructure is there to care for all Americans. This leads us to the nursing shortage. I admit I have a bias when I talk about this issue. I think nurses are terribly important to our health care system.

I know first hand the challenges facing the nursing profession and the consequences if

we fail to meet them. And today the nursing community is facing a dire situation. With an aging nursing workforce approaching retirement, and a dwindling supply of new nurses, we are facing an incredible shortfall of well trained, experienced nurses. To make matters worse this will peak just as the baby boom generation begins to retire and require a greater amount of care.

I have written legislation, the Nurse Reinvestment Act, to deal with both the immediate and the long-term problems we face. This legislation included proposals: To improve access to nursing education, to entice young people into nursing, to create partnerships between health care providers and educational institutions, and to support working nurses as they seek more training.

This past December, the House passed a slimmed down version of my bill, and the Senate passed legislation more like what I originally envisioned. We are now trying to work out the differences.

I deeply appreciate the support of the AMA for my legislation. We are close to finishing it and we would not be here without your support.

#### PHYSICIAN FEES

And just as we need to make sure patients have nurses, we also need to make sure they can see their doctors. As you are all aware, the reimbursement rates for physicians' services under Medicare saw a disastrous cut of 5.4% this year. This cut has already had a terrible impact on health care in my district and, I am sure, across the country. If these cuts are not corrected quickly they will be devastating to medical professionals and our ability to provide quality health care. I know you have been deeply frustrated by these cuts, as have I. And you have begun changing your practices to accommodate new economic reality.

A doctor's office is usually a small business. But as you well know, unlike most small businesses your decisions have life and death consequences.

Some doctors in my district have left private practice altogether. Others are threatening to. Many who stayed in private practice said that they could no longer afford to accept new Medicare patients. And others simply left Medicare all together.

This has meant that many seniors across the country are scrambling to find new doctors so they can continue to get the care they need and deserve. Along with a couple of my colleagues I introduced legislation to freeze physician fees at the 2001 level until Congress could find a long-term fix. And when Chairman Bilirakis, Ranking Member Brown, Chairman Tauzin, and Ranking Member Dingell introduced their own legislation to keep the cut minimal. I was pleased to join them in their efforts and was able to get 146 of my colleagues to ask the Speaker for a vote on this issue.

But, in spite of the bipartisan agreement on this issue, the bill has not been brought to the House floor. I know you will keep the pressure on the House leadership to bring this issue to a vote. I will too. We need to solve this problem now.

#### PBOR

But making sure there are enough doctors and nurses will only take us so far. We must also make sure that patients can get access to the benefits they need. We must pass a Patient's Bill of Rights.

Again I want to take my hat off to you and your organization for your steadfast commitment to this. The AMA and its members have been critical to our progress so far toward real patient protections. We live in an era of astounding new medical developments but also rising health care costs. The insurance companies and managed care plans are

understandably looking for ways to control those costs. This can have a positive effect on health care by making it more affordable.

Years ago in California I saw this lead to more coverage of preventive care. But the pendulum has swung too far towards cost control. Now there is too much pressure to cut corners and to skimp on care. Abuses of patients' rights to quality health care are too common. There needs to be a counterforce on the side of quality care—the side of the patients. And that counter-force is the Patient's Bill of Rights.

We have to make sure that medical decisions are made by medical professionals and their patients, and not by accountants. This is why I have supported this legislation. I am very proud to be standing by the AMA on this issue. And I remain confident that we can get this bill through this year.

#### MEDICARE RX BENEFIT

Unfortunately, I am not so optimistic about passing a Medicare prescription drug benefit for seniors. In the last twenty years we have seen a revolution because of prescription drugs. They are virtually miracle treatments. But they have also become brutally expensive and are a much larger percentage of health care costs than we ever expected. The high cost of these medications has been a problem for many people. But it has particularly hit our seniors. They routinely take several medications for various everyday health concerns. But their fixed incomes cannot pay for them. And Medicare offers little help. You and I would not even consider taking on health insurance that does not cover prescription drugs. But seniors are left looking to Medicare + Choice to pay for their prescription drugs. Medicare HMOs were promoted as an avenue of hope, but have increasingly cut back on benefits, raised premiums and copayments, and often just packed up and left areas deemed as "unprofitable" leaving seniors with no where to turn.

We hear again and again about seniors choosing between food on the table and life saving medication. We really can and should do better than that for older Americans. They expect it and they deserve it. I believe we must establish a benefit that is universal, voluntary, affordable, and accessible to all. Unfortunately, the Administration has continued to focus on expanding the failed Medicare HMO program and helping the poorest seniors. I think about the countless seniors on the Central Coast of California who have shared their personal stories with me about crushingly high drug prices, I know in my heart that prescription drug coverage is not a political issue. It is simply the right thing to do.

#### UNINSURED

Another critical issue is the 43 million Americans with no insurance coverage whatsoever. For them, health care, with or without prescription drug coverage, is nothing but a fantasy.

These are people like you and me, who are being forced to gamble with their health and with their livelihoods. They have to bet that they will stay healthy and not require health care. Each day, they wonder if today is the day that their luck will run out. Is today the day that they or a loved one will contract a terrible disease? Will today be the day that they or their family are stricken by something that will fill their life with pain and bankrupt them? They should not have to face these fears without the security that insurance can provide.

In my time as a school nurse in Santa Barbara, I saw too many families without insurance. I saw the defeated look of shame on their faces as they struggled to figure out how to get their children and themselves

necessary health care. This is something we can fix if we put our hearts and minds to it. Some people believe that the best way to address this problem is through tax credits. I have to say that I am skeptical. I am concerned that tax credits might not cover the costs of insurance and may inadvertently draw people out of employer-based insurance, driving up premiums for those left behind.

Others have called for Medical Savings Accounts, but these may end up pulling healthy people out of insurance plans and leaving the ill in, again raising the costs to those most in need of help. I think we might be better off pursuing an expansion of existing health care programs or helping small businesses get access to the low rates that large businesses get. But any of these solutions will cost a great deal of money. And so it is essential that we find the best, most cost-effective method. That is why it is absolutely necessary to keep up dialog and debate, without shutting out ideas.

You and I may disagree on the best way to help the uninsured. But we will help them faster if we are willing to hear from each other and work towards a consensus. We cannot afford the arrogance of the idea that there is no way but our own.

#### BUSH BUDGET

We will see this clearly as we set the budget for next year. The President has laid out some laudable priorities in his health care budget. He calls for more funding for the NIH and efforts to prepare communities for bioterrorism. But at the same time the budget cuts funding for community health coordination, chronic disease programs, and efforts to train doctors and other health professionals. I think these cuts are counterproductive. So I will work with the President and my colleagues on this budget, hopefully without the partisan bickering that has filled past debates.

#### CLOSING

Our patient, the health of America, is faced with too many diseases and conditions to simply lie on its hospital bed as we engage in petty squabbles about who came up with what idea. We will only be able to solve our problems if we are willing to work together, respect and embrace our opponents, and clamber for a common ground to meet on.

I thank you for listening to me, and I look forward to working with you to accomplish these goals.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE GENESEE VALLEY ROTARY

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Genesee Valley Rotary Club on their 25th anniversary. It is my wish to commend Jack Hamady, Ray Kelley and Jerry Wittemore for their efforts in founding the club in May, 1977.

The Genesee Valley Rotary Club has lead the community in service for the past 25 years. They participate and operate several community service projects, such as the Salvation Army Christmas Bell Ringing, the WFUM-TV28 telethon, and the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bowling Challenge.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Genesee Valley Rotary Club. May its leadership and all of those in-

involved know of my high regard for this exemplary organization and its excellence in community service.

#### TRIBUTE TO FRANKLIN H. BERRY, JR.

#### HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend as he is honored by the Toms River-Ocean County Chamber of Commerce for his extraordinary contributions to the community.

In many fields of service, through business endeavors and volunteerism, Franklin Berry has served the residents of Ocean County faithfully for many years.

Having served in the New Jersey General Assembly as well as Ocean County government, he led the citizens not only of the county, but also of New Jersey with dedication and commitment.

His participation in the Toms River Student Loan Fund as well as the Southern Regional Scholarship Fund has enabled many young people to seek higher education when they might otherwise have been unable to do so.

Franklin Berry serves with many local organizations such as the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Jersey Shore Council Boy Scouts of America and the Toms River Area Family YMCA. His time and efforts have brought about opportunities for understanding and improvement to the community and the families who reside there.

A community mainstay for many years, Franklin Berry's willingness to lend a hand to any worthy group or organization in need of his services is the basis for his selection for the prestigious award for which he is being honored by the Chamber.

I congratulate him and wish him many more years of service to others.

#### ON THE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE OF AMERICA'S MILITARY READINESS

#### HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I am very distraught today over the inclusion of a Base Realignment and Closure provision in last year's National Defense Authorization Act. I do not buy into so-called BRAC 'success' stories. I will be the first to stand up and congratulate sound accounting of our taxpayers' money, however, BRAC does not represent sound accounting. The truth of the matter is that reducing military construction for Fiscal Year 2003 will not solve the Army's financial problems. Furthermore, according to the Government Accounting Office, BRAC cost and savings estimates are imprecise. According to the Congressional Research Service, in the early years of the past four rounds of BRAC, base closure costs greatly exceeded savings. On more than a few occasions, facilities that were closed under BRAC were needed again, and

in some cases, reopened. In 2005, the bases spared by the next round of BRAC will still need the same improvements, but in the meantime, the decision to freeze construction at bases that might be BRACed will only hurt our people living there—hurt our soldiers and their families. We need to protect our soldiers' families. And just as we need to protect them from terrorists, we also need to protect them from the elements—from Mother Nature who reminds them just how leaky their roofs are. We need to protect them from being uprooted in the name of savings that will not materialize for a decade and may, in all actuality, never materialize.

A few weeks ago First Lieutenant Tallas Tomeny was killed in the line of duty. I extend my condolences to his family. While we mourn the loss of all of our soldiers, this loss is so much sadder because Lieutenant Tomeny was not killed in Afghanistan, or the Balkans, or Egypt, or Korea, or any of the other numerous places our soldiers are stationed around the world. He was killed in North Carolina during an exercise held off base, and he was shot by a Sheriff's deputy who mistook him for a criminal. While we sit here and continue to talk about closing Vieques and continue to talk about closing bases, a soldier has lost his life because his training was being held in a civilian community instead of on a military training area. We need to reconsider the decision to close facilities where our forces can train safely.

#### 125TH BIRTHDAY OF THE ADVANCE OF BUCKS COUNTY NEWSPAPER

#### HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th birthday of The ADVANCE of Bucks County newspaper. Founded in Hulmeville, Pennsylvania in 1877, the ADVANCE has provided hometown news to its readers in a weekly paper continuously for the past 125 years.

The ADVANCE has been a part of my family's required reading for as long as I can remember. My father's career as a township supervisor and the local district justice were covered, and when my younger brother was riding a pony and it ran away with him, his picture made the paper!

I still depend on the ADVANCE for hometown news, to learn about local community issues and upcoming events.

I would like to offer my heartiest congratulations to Editor Nancy Pickering and the rest of the staff at the ADVANCE, past and present.

#### TRADE WITH UKRAINE

#### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, last week, I posted letters to the President of Ukraine, Mr. Leonid Kuchma, and the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Anatoly Kinakh regarding a pending incident in Ukraine involving an American-

based company. Cargill International is the owner of the cargo aboard a Liberian shipping vessel, the MV Monarch, which has been seized and the contents impounded by the Ukrainian government. Thirty-five thousand metric tons of sugar carried on the ship was to be delivered in Ukraine. However, the seizure of the product has raised serious questions among our colleagues regarding the risks associated with Ukrainian trade and the desirability of Ukraine as a stable, reliable trading partner.

As you know Mr. Speaker, I remain a firm advocate of enhanced trade relationships between Ukraine and the United States, and believe this House should aggressively pursue prudent policies which draw the two democracies together, and for a variety of strategic and humanitarian reasons. While the pending episode is rightfully regarded by some here as a serious impediment to the maturation of trade relations, I am hopeful it will be resolved soon. I am mindful indeed of the significance of the dispute which is why I have taken to the floor today to alert our colleagues to the actions I have taken so far in this matter.

In addition to speaking personally to Ukraine's ambassador about the need to resolve the issue of Cargill's sugar shipment, I have been in regular contact with our embassy in Kyiv, our ambassador there, multiple U.S. business representatives, and many of my contacts in the Ukrainian government and in Ukraine's parliament, the Verkhovna Rada. The nature of my conversations follow the text of the letters I conveyed to Ukraine's president, and prime minister which I hereby submit for the RECORD.

MARCH 14, 2002.

His Excellency LEONID KUCHMA,  
*President of Ukraine,*  
*Ukraine.*

DEAR MR. KUCHMA: Your immediate attention, intervention, and response to Ukraine's confiscation of property belonging to an American-based corporation, Cargill International SA, CISA, is hereby requested. I strenuously urge you to help me resolve this extremely volatile situation which is clearly capable of damaging the relationship between our nations. As you know, I have devoted six years of my service in the U.S. Congress toward improving the Ukrainian/US relations, and I am fearful much of our recent progress will be lost to the current episode involving the seizure of cargo, legally the property of CISA, by Ukraine's Black Sea Regional Customs authority.

The ship, MV Monarch, carrying 35,000 metric tons of raw cane sugar was seized in January 2002. The stated grounds for seizure, namely the alleged inability to substantiate the existence of an American company involved in the transaction, have been resolved. However, neither the ship, nor its cargo, have been released. In fact, the latest information indicates the ship has been moved to berth at a port in Illychivesk, where off-loading has commenced, and the security of the product is in jeopardy.

The international implications of this issue are quite serious. American product being unjustly detained, confiscated and off-loaded will certainly damage Ukraine's desirability as an international market and trade partner. The sugar cargo in question is clearly the property of CISA and is being off-loaded without the owner's consent. Your intervention and leadership in resolving this situation would do much to restore and maintain Ukraine's commitment to freemarkets and reliable international relations. Thank you in advance for your urgent attention to this serious matter.

As always, I am at your disposal to engage any meaningful effort advancing our nations' friendship and cooperation.

Very truly yours,

BOB SCHAFFER,  
*Member of Congress,*  
*Co-Chairman Congressional Ukrainian*  
*Caucus.*

## TUNISIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to take this opportunity to inform my colleagues that Wednesday, March 20, 2002, marks the 46th anniversary of Tunisia's independence. I invite my colleagues to join in extending our congratulations to the leaders and people of this important ally. The Republic of Tunisia has been and continues to be a model of economic growth, while keeping Islamic fundamentalism at bay.

However, the relationship between the United States and Tunisia is much older than Tunisia's 46th Anniversary of its independence may suggest. The United States first signed a treaty of peace and friendship with Tunisia in 1797. During World War II, Tunisia's nationalist leaders suspended their struggle against France in order to support the Allied cause, and, in 1956, the United States was the first world power to recognize Tunisia's independence.

Today Tunisia and the United States enjoy friendly bilateral relations. The Tunisian government has contributed military contingents to U.N. peacekeeping missions in Cambodia, Somalia, the Western Sahara, and Rwanda. Cooperation between the Tunisian and U.S. military has been growing, with an increasing number of joint exercises.

At the same time, after years of hard work, Tunisia has produced one of the highest standards of living in the region. U.S. bilateral economic assistance programs have ended principally because of Tunisia's resounding success in social and economic development. Tunisia's prudent fiscal and debt management policies also have given Tunisia access to international capital markets. Thus, Tunisia is one of the few countries to graduate successfully from development assistance and join the developed world.

Whether protecting Mediterranean shipping lanes against Barbary pirates, opposing the Nazi war machine in North Africa, supporting Western interests during the Cold War, or serving as an island of peace and security in a sea of troubles, the United States has always been able to count on Tunisia for its support regarding the important issues of the day.

Accordingly, I invite my colleagues to join in congratulating all Tunisians as they celebrate the 46th anniversary of their nation's independence.

## CELEBRATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, which is celebrating its 90th anniversary this month. On March 12, 1912, Juliette Gordon Low organized the first group of eighteen Girl Scouts in Savannah, Georgia. She believed that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually. Today, there are 2.7 million girls in Girl Scouts of the USA, and over 900,000 adult members.

The Girl Scout mission is to help all girls grow strong. To that end, Girl Scouting empowers girls to develop to their full individual potential; relate positively to others; develop values that provide the foundation for sound decision-making; and contribute to the improvement of society through their abilities, leadership skills, and cooperation with others. Girl Scouts of the USA continues today to expand its programs to address contemporary issues affecting girls, while maintaining its core values. The organization's foundation is still based on the Girl Scout Promise and Law, just as it was in 1912.

Girl Scouting helps our country's young women discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together. Through an array of enriching experiences, Girl Scouts acquire self-confidence and expertise, take on responsibility, and are encouraged to think creatively and act with integrity—qualities essential in good citizens and great leaders. At the same time, they learn a great deal about science and technology, money management and finance, health and fitness, the arts, global awareness, and much more. I personally have shared in the wonderful experience of Girl Scouting, when a number of the young women volunteered in my office last summer.

Juliette Gordon Low envisioned Girl Scouting as a profound force in the lives of all girls. In 2001, Girl Scouts of the USA launched a major initiative to continue to fulfill the foundational principle that every girl deserves the opportunity to learn the leadership and life skills that will help her achieve her goals. Through "Girl Scouting: For Every Girl, Everywhere," Girl Scout volunteers and staff are working to ensure that Girl Scouting is available to every girl in every community, reaching beyond racial, ethnic, socioeconomic or geographic boundaries. The initiative aims to encourage broader membership from minorities, especially among Latina and Asian American girls. It also seeks to increase participation of teenage girls and girls with disabilities. One of the primary missions of Girl Scouts of the USA is to make the positive experience of its programs available to girls everywhere. In addition to schools and backyards, Girl Scout troops now meet in homeless shelters, migrant farm communities, juvenile detention centers, Native American reservations, and even online via the Internet.

With "Girl Scouting: For Every Girl, Everywhere," Girl Scouts of the USA hopes to truly reflect the face of America and to ensure that every girl who wants to join Girl Scouts has the opportunity to do so. This goal is in keeping with its long and proud history of diversity

and inclusiveness. For 90 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 to build solid communities. I salute Girl Scouts on this tremendous milestone, and am confident that Girl Scouts is sure to continue this tradition for the next 90 years and beyond.

RECOGNIZING THE GIRL SCOUTS' 90TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JACK QUINN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, It gives me great pleasure to rise today to recognize the Girl Scouts as the pre-eminent all girls organization in the world. Founded on March 12, 1912 in Savannah, Georgia, the Girl Scouts organization celebrates its 90th Anniversary of service to the girls and women of America.

The Girl Scouts serves the unique interests of girls by providing girls with programs designed especially for them in an all-girls setting.

The Girls Scout Council of Buffalo & Erie County, Inc., joins Councils throughout the United States, and Girl Scouts everywhere, in celebration of the 90th Anniversary of Girl Scouting in the USA, and its 85th year of service to the girls of Western New York.

The year 2002, marks nine decades of Girl Scouts providing girls with age-appropriate programs that help to impart good moral values, life skills, a respect for themselves and others, a foundation necessary for girls to become contributing adult members of their communities.

Girl Scout Troops in Buffalo & Erie County, Inc., and Girl Scouts across America, take their role as patriotic Americans more seriously than ever. Two of their public service endeavors include airlifting donations of Girl Scout Cookies and letters of encouragement to the women and men of the U.S. armed services stationed in Afghanistan and donating dollars to the children of Afghanistan.

The Girls Scouts of Buffalo & Erie County serve their immediate community through Gifts of Caring and Bronze, Silver and Gold Award service projects, that not only provides individuals with the necessities of life, but also helps to uplift the spirits of the homeless and less fortunate members of society.

I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring the Girl Scouts.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LONG-TERM CARE SUPPORT AND INCENTIVE ACT

**HON. SUSAN DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an important issue facing our community: the affordability of long-term care. People today are living longer and healthier lives than ever before. When the Declaration of Independence was signed, the

average life expectancy was 23. In the United States today, life expectancy at birth is 80 years.

While this increased life expectancy is allowing us to live fuller lives, it is also presenting us with serious financial challenges. Half of all older Americans who live alone will "spend" themselves into poverty after only 13 weeks in a nursing home.

My own family had to make difficult emotional and financial decisions when my father needed care. My dad was a pediatrician, and always lived a full life. When he needed care, my sisters and I struggled to find the perfect place for him to live.

We wanted to make sure he was happy and received high quality medical care. We searched for months to find the right place for our dad and we learned very quickly how expensive long-term care is. Fortunately, we had the financial resources to take care of him, but many families do not.

My experience with my dad renewed my commitment to improve our long-term care system. I took on this mission in Congress and I am pleased today to introduce the Long Term Care Support and Incentive Act. This much needed legislation will make a real difference for San Diegans carrying for older family members.

First, the bill will give a \$4,000 tax credit for seniors with long-term care needs and their caregivers. We know how many sacrifices families make to take care of their loved ones. They miss work, or in some cases are forced to give up their jobs. They pay for expensive medical supplies and equipment, and bare the burden of enormous medical bills. This tax credit will help ease their financial burden.

The second section of my legislation will establish a tax deduction for long-term care insurance premiums. As the long-term care needs in our community increase, we must face the reality that many seniors do not have family or friends to take care of them full time.

This is particularly important to women. Women live longer than men. Often times, women are the primary caregivers for their husbands. After their husbands pass away, there is often no one around to take care of them.

Long-term care insurance can help fill this gap, but premiums can be expensive. My legislation will make long-term care insurance more affordable by allowing individuals over 65 to deduct 75 percent of the cost of their premiums and individuals under 65 to deduct 50 percent of the cost of their premiums.

In addition, I have included several important consumer protections in the bill to ensure that people are purchasing responsible insurance plans that will adequately meet their long-term care needs.

The bill requires plans to include:

Mandatory inflation protection;

A lifetime deductible requirement that ensures policy holders must only pay their deductible one time in their lifetime;

Mandatory interchangeability so that individuals can determine where their benefits are spent;

A care coordination program that ensures seniors receive assistance in planning and securing the services they need.

By encouraging people to plan ahead for the future and purchase long-term care insurance, we can ensure that seniors live dignified and independent lives. I urge all of my col-

leagues in Congress to work with me to pass it quickly into law.

A TRIBUTE TO THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Girl Scouts of the United States of America. Earlier this month, the Girl Scouts celebrated their 90th Anniversary, and it is appropriate for us to take time to honor their contributions to our nation.

The Girl Scouts were founded by Juliette Gordon Low on March 12, 1912 in Savannah, Georgia and were chartered by Congress on March 16, 1950. Today, the Girl Scouts boast 3.7 million members, 2.7 million of whom are daisies, brownies, junior scouts, cadets, and senior scouts. And they are supported by almost one million adult volunteers. The Girl Scouts is a truly worldwide organization partnering with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to create a family of ten million girls and adults in 140 countries.

As the former State Superintendent of North Carolina's public schools, I understand how important the Girl Scouts are to the development of our young women. The Girl Scouts are working to encourage young women to pursue careers in science and technology through a number of innovative science and math education initiatives. These initiatives provide girls with mentors, role models, and the technological resources to prepare them to succeed in the 21st Century.

Through Girl Scouts girls become strong women and good citizens. They participate in a number of activities that are designed to foster friendship, and build character. They learn leadership skills, teamwork, and core values that will guide them throughout their lives. These values are outlined in the Girl Scout Law:

I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do, and to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

More than 50 million women in the U.S. have been Girl Scouts. Today these women are America's doctors, lawyers, teachers, and mothers. The lessons they learned in their childhood from their field trips and projects are still being applied today. Our nation is stronger today because of the Girl Scouts. I am proud to join my colleagues in saluting the Girl Scouts and look forward to what the next 90 years will bring.

HONORING TADELE WORKU FOR SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to honor Tadele Worku, recipient of

the 2001 Yoshiyama Award for Exemplary Service to the Community, presented to him by The Hitachi Foundation at an awards ceremony on Monday, March 18, 2002 in Washington, DC. The Foundation named ten high school seniors nationwide as recipients of this prestigious award—ten young people who exemplify the best in creativity, accomplishment, and service to their communities.

Tadele is a 2001 graduate of Hoover High School in my home town of San Diego, California. He is receiving this award to recognize his contribution to the Ethiopian community in San Diego. Upon his arrival as a refugee from Ethiopia four years ago, he became aware that Ethiopian children in his neighborhood did not know how to read and write their native language. Tadele set to work to develop a tutoring program for these children. While their parents attended church, he worked with their children, teaching the Ethiopian alphabet and language and exposing them to the Ethiopian literature, tradition, and culture.

In addition, Tadele provided tutoring in math and science to the children who needed assistance. He also worked with young adults in the computer center of the local library and volunteered in a San Diego homeless shelter. By becoming so involved in service to others, Tadele has truly become a part of his new community, a bond which has helped him overcome a difficult exile from Africa where his mother and grandfather were killed and his father incarcerated for their political beliefs.

The Yoshiyama Award, which Tadele has received, was established in 1988 with a gift from Hirokichi Yoshiyama, former president and chairman of Hitachi, Ltd., the company that established The Hitachi Foundation in 1985. The goal of this non-profit, philanthropic Foundation is to promote social responsibility through effective participation in global society. The Hitachi Foundation is proud to highlight the achievements of the young people of our country, the leaders of their generation.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate Tadele Worku on this prestigious award and to thank him for his compassionate commitment to his community.

**A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT BLACKKEY,  
OUTSTANDING HISTORY PRO-  
FESSOR**

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Robert Blackkey, a professor of history at California State University at San Bernardino, located at the western edge of the 40th District of California. Professor Blackkey is the 2001 honoree of the Eugene Asher Distinguished Teaching Award, the highest award given by both the American Historical Association and the Society for History Education in recognition of outstanding teaching and advocacy for history teaching.

Long an advocate of good teaching, Professor Blackkey's instructional techniques and knowledge of his subject matter have, over the course of his thirty plus years of teaching, made history come alive for his students. Blackkey understands the adage "History is to

society what memory is to the individual" and that humanizing the study of the past makes it relevant to the young minds of the present.

In making the award, the historical association quoted a former student's nomination, saying not only is Professor Blackkey "a dynamic speaker and discussion leader, but he enriches his lectures with slides, photographs, art, music, and observations from his travels around the world. He brings the people of history to life through visual and verbal illustrations that humanize them; he also helps students to think historically and to appreciate the larger themes that he weaves throughout his classes." Through his work as editor of the teaching column in *Perspectives*, vice president of the AHA Teaching Division, chief reader for Advanced Placement European History, perennial workshop leader, and frequent guest speaker in secondary school classrooms, Professor Blackkey has made an outstanding contribution to history teaching, the association said.

Blackey's efforts at serving others don't stop at the university's edge. He has served as Chair of the school's history department as well as social science coordinator. Additionally, his work includes having served as vice president of the American Historical Association and is an elected member of The College Board's National Academic Council. Blackey also works with Project Upbeat, an innovative program that inspires middle school students to attend and succeed in college.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Professor Blackey's dedication to his profession and his continuing efforts to help students appreciate and understand history. I ask you and my colleagues to join his fellow professors, his friends, and his family in congratulating him for his record of success.

**CLASS ACTION FAIRNESS ACT OF  
2002**

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

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. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2341, the Class Action Fairness Act of 2001. This legislation would make it more difficult for injured consumers to seek relief from corporate abuses. This is not the type of legislation that we in Congress should be supporting in the wake of the Enron debacle.

I would also like to state my position on some of the amendments being offered on

H.R. 2341. Several of the amendments are directly attributable to many of the alleged disgraceful, if not illegal, acts performed by a few major corporations in the past couple of years. These acts include records being sealed, even though public health and safety were at stake, and document shredding. Despite the outrage that some corporate behavior has created for me and the American public, some proposed amendments were not well-defined to deal with this illegal conduct. My "nay" votes on certain amendments reflect this concern, however I condemn the corporate behavior that prompted these proposals.

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION  
TO PREVENT ANY INCREASE IN  
VETERANS' HEALTH CARE DE-  
DUCTIBLE**

**HON. TED STRICKLAND**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, in response to the President's fiscal year 2003 budget, I am introducing this Sense of Congress to oppose the Administration's recommendation to impose a \$1,500 deductible on the health care for "Priority Group 7" veterans. Just recently the VA increased the veteran prescription drug co-payment by 250%. The President's budget proposal calls on Congress to legislate a \$1,500 deductible for their health care. This deductible is unacceptable and an unnecessary hardship to place upon veterans. It is my hope that by introducing this Resolution, this Congress will speak as one body and make it clear that we will not break America's promises to our veterans.

**TUNISIA 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
INDEPENDENCE**

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize a great ally of the United States, Tunisia, as she celebrates 46 years of independence. In 1797, the United States signed a Treaty of Peace and Friendship with the North African country of Tunisia. Over 150 years later, Tunisia peacefully gained independence from France. Today, we congratulate Tunisia for 46 years as an independent nation.

The Republic of Tunisia has remained a steadfast friend to the United States, joining Allied forces during World War II and continuing support throughout the Cold War. Now, in the wake of September 11, Tunisia has once again emerged as a true ally, supporting our current efforts in the war against terror. Based on her geopolitical location, Tunisia's cooperation in the campaign to root out terrorists is absolutely critical.

Today, Tunisia enjoys a burgeoning economy, as the nation's per capita income continues to grow substantially. One of Tunisia's most valuable assets has been its continued willingness to support a Middle East peace process. Despite being surrounded by nations

engulfed in political turmoil, Tunisia continues to take an active role in combating international unrest.

I congratulate Tunisia on 46 years of independence and look forward to the United States' continuing strong relations with Tunisia for years to come. Please join me in celebrating the 46th Anniversary of Tunisia's independence.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOUSING  
AFFORDABILITY FOR AMERICA  
ACT OF 2002

**HON. MARGE ROUKEMA**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Housing Affordability for America Act of 2002 which will increase the availability of affordable housing and expand homeownership and rental opportunities across the country.

This country is facing a growing affordable housing problem for low and moderate-income families and for those with special needs. Last year, the Housing Subcommittee held a series of hearings to explore housing affordability and availability. In those hearings, we heard from community activist, housing experts, local and federal government officials and representatives from the home building, real estate and mortgage industries on the obstacles

to home ownership and affordable rental housing across the country.

If we are to expand home ownership and affordable rental opportunities, then we must encourage new production of affordable single and multifamily housing. We must break down the barriers that prevent certain segments of the population from realizing the American dream of homeownership. One way to do that is to provide opportunities that allow families to acquire and build wealth toward the goal of homeownership. That means there must be affordable, available rental housing as a family's first step. This bill includes provisions targeted at not only expanding home ownership opportunities but also providing affordable rental opportunities.

The Housing Affordability for America Act makes mid-course corrections of housing programs that are underused, duplicative or have been hindered by muddled objectives. This legislation provides increased flexibility for local governments and programs so that they can better meet the needs of their individual communities.

First, the bill includes a housing production and preservation program within HOME targeted toward very low and extremely low income families. In addition, we provide flexibility and increased leverage opportunities for local governments and local decision-makers so they can better meet the needs of their individual communities.

The FHA program was originally designed to encourage lenders to make credit more readily available and at lower rates for various

purposes that might otherwise go unmet. In this bill, we strengthen the FRA program and provide additional tools to encourage homeownership opportunities and to increase the supply of affordable rental housing for all Americans.

Needless regulation adds to the cost of housing. By reducing the cost of regulation, we can lower the cost of homeownership. That is why this bill would require a housing impact analysis of any new rule of a Federal agency that has an economic impact of \$100,000,000 or more. H.R. 3191, the "Home Ownership Opportunities for Public Safety Officers and Teachers" has also been incorporated into this legislation.

Finally, we reauthorize HOPE VI, HOPWA, the Homeless Housing Programs, and the Native American Housing Act.

Housing is the number-one consumer product in America. While the homeownership rate in this country is an impressive 68%, there are still some that are unable to share in that dream. We have an opportunity with this bill to make an impact on affordable housing by addressing the issue of growing housing need. This legislation is the first step—a precursor to the forthcoming reports from the Millennium and Senior Housing Commissions which will help to outline further steps that will be necessary in the future.

It is time that we restored confidence and accountability to our nation's housing programs and policies. This legislation will go a long way toward reaching that goal.