

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-

volved 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-