

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MR. MICHAEL CLINCH REGARDING THE INTRODUCTION
OF CERTAIN MEDICARE-RE-
LATED BILLS

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to Mr. Michael Clinch on the occasion of his retirement after an exceptional career as Superintendent of Ottawa Township High School District #140 in Ottawa, Illinois.

For the past thirty-five years, Superintendent Clinch has served the citizens and students of Ottawa in an outstanding fashion—beginning his career at Ottawa Township High School as a business teacher and moving up the chain of responsibility until his appointment in 1989 as Superintendent.

Upon taking office in January, 1995 as the 11th Congressional District's Representative in the United States Congress, virtually the first community project brought to my attention was the need to complete the more than decade old effort to protect Ottawa Township High School from the frequent flooding of the Fox and Illinois Rivers with the construction of a levee around the School property. Largely because of both the unfailing determination of Superintendent Clinch to finally complete this vital project as well as the invaluable cooperation of Superintendent Clinch with my office, a compromise was reached with concerned neighbors of the High School and the multi-million dollar levee constructed under the auspices of the Corps of Engineers. Today, the levee provides for the safety of students and staff while protecting the millions of dollars which the taxpayers of Ottawa have invested in their High School—while at the same time saving the High School an estimated average of \$200,000 per year in flooding damages.

Superintendent Michael Clinch's career is marked by meritorious examples of this type of strong and visionary leadership ranging from the merger with Marseilles High School in 1990 shortly after his appointment as Superintendent to the recently confirmed multi-million dollar upgrading and expansion of Ottawa Township High School's buildings and classrooms.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am proud and pleased to be able to offer to my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives the example of Superintendent Michael Clinch as a modern day education leader able to combine an ironclad commitment to educational excellence with the rare ability to meet head-on and successfully resolve a wide variety of tough challenges.

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, as you know, the Energy and Commerce Committee is marking up prescription drug and other Medicare-related legislation this week. The foundation for our markup is H.R. 4954, the Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act of 2002, introduced by my colleagues, Representatives JOHNSON and BILIRAKIS on June 18, 2002.

To ensure an orderly process in my Committee, I made the decision to divide H.R. 4954 into a number of Committee Prints for our markup. In doing so, however, I of course want the Committee's good work to be reflected through full-fledged Committee reports on the various titles. Accordingly, I have already introduced two bills (H.R. 4961 and H.R. 4962), and will continue to introduce free-standing bills that are the exact text of the prints we have marked up and ordered reported. Taken together, these bills will represent my Committee's position on the vital Medicare legislation we are considering.

During House floor debate on the prescription drug legislation, which should take place next week, I will provide the House with a complete guide to the legislative history of the Energy and Commerce Committee's work in this area.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH
ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2002

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Hawaii for her leadership and rise to speak on a subject important to women across America. Most people just think sports when they hear Title IX, but it is so much more than that. For 30 years, Title IX has opened the door of educational opportunity to women. But a recent study tells us that the door may be closing if we do not act soon.

Before Title IX, schools at all levels limited participation of women and girls. What a different world it was then.

Back then, many publicly funded universities did not admit women to undergraduate programs. They had higher admissions standards for women than men and imposed quotas based on gender.

And that's not all. Women frequently were discouraged from applying to law and medical schools or majoring in hard sciences, such as physics or engineering. And when they did,

equally qualified women regularly received less financial aid than their male counterparts, with married women generally receiving none at all. Honor societies were regularly reserved for male students only, and women's athletics were funded at levels far below programs for men. In fact, most female athletic programs consisted mainly of cheerleading, and few women were allowed to coach athletics or hold administrative positions in athletic departments.

But when Title IX became law, that all began to change. It grew out of the women's civil rights movement of the late 1960's and early 70's. During that period when so much began to change, Congress started to focus attention on institutional barriers to women and girls, like education, largely because of how they affected women's employment opportunities.

And there have been real results. In 1971, only 18 percent of young women completed four or more years of college. But by 2006, women are projected to earn 55 percent of all bachelor's degrees.

In the legal and medical fields, there have been even greater advances. In 1999, women earned nearly half of all medical degrees, compared with 1972, when only 9 percent of medical school degrees went to women. Women accounted for 43 percent of all law school degrees in 1994, up from a meager 7 percent in 1972. And of all doctoral degrees awarded that year, 44 percent went to women.

And in athletics, an area that has received significant attention in recent years, the gains have been palpable.

Women now constitute 40 percent of college athletes, compared to the 15 percent thirty years ago. As evidenced by the trailblazing UConn Huskies women's basketball team and all of the accolades and championships they have earned, the values women learn from sports participation, like leadership, like teamwork, discipline, and pride in accomplishment are so very important. Today's athletic successes help us increase our participation in tomorrow's workforce, like the number of business management and ownership positions. In fact, 80 percent of female managers of Fortune 500 companies have a sports background. There is no question that participation in athletics has truly given women some of the tools they need for success.

But this month, the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education—consisting of the American Association of University Women and 50 other organizations—released a report on the 30th anniversary of Title IX. And the news was not particularly good.

The study included a report card examining the state of gender equity in 10 areas. Athletics, an area where we are supposedly making so many advances, received a C+. Career Education, a D. Employment and Learning Environment, a C-. Sexual Harassment and Standardized Testing were scarcely better, receiving C's. And technology, such an important area for our economy, received a D.

And though all Federal agencies that fund education programs or activities are required

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

to develop regulations to enforce Title IX, until recently only 4 agencies—Education, Energy, Agriculture and HHS—had done so.

And there is a growing movement to roll back Title IX protections. Funding has been slashed for numerous programs that support gender equity in education. In 1996, Congress eliminated funding under Title IV of the Civil Rights Act that had for two decades supported Title IX and gender-equity services in 49 state education agencies. Attacks on gender equity have been growing, and women have been forced to turn to the legal system to get the rights they are guaranteed by the law.

So, there is so much more work to do. We must support and enforce the strong compliance standards that are currently in place. And we must call on the Administration to take action to do just that. Title IX, gender equity and educational opportunity are simply too important to let fall by the wayside. We must remain vigilant. Protecting the rights of women is not simply the right thing to do, it is the essence of what we stand for as Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Congresswoman MINK for her continued leadership on this important issue.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district on Tuesday, June 4, 2002, and I would like the record to indicate how I would have voted on rollcall votes No. 207 and 208.

For rollcall vote No. 207, a bill to permanently exclude from taxable income any restitution payments from governments of former Nazi-controlled countries, I would have voted, "aye."

For rollcall vote number 208, a bill to permanently raise the adoption tax credit, I would have voted "aye."

COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to express appreciation to the Colorado General Assembly. The respective members of the Colorado House of Representatives have made a commitment to improving the healthcare needs of the people of Colorado as expressed in their House Joint Resolution, which was adopted by the Second Regular Session of the 63rd General Assembly of the State of Colorado.

This joint resolution states support for the extension of health credits, the modernization of Medicare and the support of the "Immediate Helping Hand Prescription Drug Assistance Act." I commend the efforts of the Colorado House of Representatives and respectfully submit the following Colorado Joint Resolution for the RECORD.

House Resolution 02-1007, by Representatives Clapp, Crane, Fairbank, Johnson, Mace,

Miller, Mitchell, Paschall, Rhodes, Snook, Spradley, Stafford, Stengel, Williams S., Williams T., Witwer, Alexander, Boyd, Daniel, Fritz, Hefley, Hoppe, Kester, King, Larson, Lawrence, Sanchez, Scott, Swenson, Tochtrop, and Young.

CONCERNING THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF COLORADO

Whereas, President George W. Bush has proposed an innovative and comprehensive plan to improve access to health care as part of his proposed budget for 2003; and

Whereas, President Bush's proposed budget contains an allocation of eighty-nine billion dollars for new tax credits for health care expenses (health credits) to be available for working individuals and families; and

Whereas, These health credits could mean up to three thousand dollars in tax relief for eligible families and up to one thousand dollars for eligible individuals; and

Whereas, To enhance the effect of these health credits, President Bush has proposed that states could provide the power of group purchasing for the health credits through state-sponsored purchasing pools for certain individuals; and

Whereas, These health credits will make private health insurance more affordable for many Coloradans who do not currently have employer-subsidized insurance; and

Whereas, President Bush's proposed budget will also loosen the restrictions on medical savings accounts (MSAs) and flexible spending accounts (FSAs); and

Whereas, Employees who purchase a high-deductible health care plan will be permitted to make contributions to MSAs in an amount equal to the amount of the deductible; and

Whereas, MSAs will be made available to all employers, and they will be made permanent; and

Whereas, Employees will be permitted to rollover up to five hundred dollars in unspent health care contributions to an FSA to use the following year or to contribute to a 401(k) plan; and

Whereas, These changes will make MSAs and FSAs more attractive to employees and employers and therefore improve the quality of health care for working individuals and families from Colorado; and

Whereas, President Bush has also worked with a bipartisan group of legislators to establish the framework for legislation to improve Medicare and keep its benefits secure based on the following principles:

(1) Promoting the option of a subsidized prescription drug benefit as part of a modernized Medicare;

(2) Providing better coverage for preventive care and serious illnesses;

(3) Allowing current and future beneficiaries to have the option of keeping the traditional Medicare plan with no charges;

(4) Providing better health insurance options;

(5) Strengthening the long-term financial security of Medicare;

(6) Updating and streamlining Medicare's regulations and administrative procedures, while reducing its fraud and abuse;

(7) Encouraging high quality health care for all seniors; and

Whereas, President Bush's framework for bipartisan legislation will help modernize Medicare and help fulfill its promise of health care security for Colorado's seniors and people with disabilities; and

Whereas, Proposed legislation entitled the "Immediate Helping Hand Prescription Drug Assistance Act" would give states block grants to provide a drug benefit for low-income Medicare beneficiaries; and

Whereas, The "Immediate Helping Hand Prescription Drug Assistance Act" would

provide forty-eight billion dollars to states over seven years, including over eighty-five million dollars to Colorado; and

Whereas, This federal assistance would help Colorado's seniors afford prescription drugs; and

Whereas, President Bush's plans for extending health credits, increasing the flexibility of MSAs and FSAs, and modernizing Medicare, as well as the "Immediate Helping Hand Prescription Drug Assistance Act" will vastly improve the quality of health care for the citizens of Colorado; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-third General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

That we, the members of the House of Representatives of the State of Colorado, encourage the Colorado congressional delegation to support and work to pass legislation related to extending health credits, increasing the flexibility of MSAs and FSAs, and modernizing Medicare, and also support and work to pass the "Immediate Helping Hand Prescription Drug Assistance Act".

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and each member of Colorado's delegation to the United States Congress.

JUDITH RODRIGUE,

Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.

DOUG DEAN,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN ROBERT DALZELL, OUTGOING CHAIRMAN, INLAND EMPIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication to the community and to the overall well-being and safety of my hometown of Corona, CA, is exceptional. The City of Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give time and talent to making their communities a better place to live and work. John Robert Dalzell is one of these individuals. On Thursday, June 27, 2002, John Robert Dalzell will be retiring after 31 years of dedicated service to the community as a law enforcement officer. His outstanding work as a police officer, in addition to his personal involvement in the community, will be celebrated at a luncheon in his honor.

John Robert Dalzell was born in Illinois on September 1, 1947 and shortly after his family moved to Arizona. After graduation from high school, John enlisted for and honorably served in the United States Navy for five years which included tours of duty in Vietnam. He obtained his Bachelor's Degree from Chapman College and began his law enforcement career with the Corona Police Department as a reserve officer and police officer in 1976. He was promoted to the rank of lieutenant in 1980 and to captain in 1983.

John's exemplary career as a police officer includes serving as the commanding officer in charge of all three divisions in the police department. John holds several advanced Peace

Officer Standards and Training certificates including Advanced and Executive Certificate and has served on law enforcement advisory boards throughout Riverside County.

John has also been actively involved in the community, as the past president and current member of the Corona Breakfast Lions club, former chairman of the American Cancer Society Charity Dinner Committee and the 2001 recipient of the Temescal District Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen Award.

John's tireless work as a police officer has contributed unmeasurably to the safety and betterment of the City of Corona. His involvement in community organizations of the City of Corona make me proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that all of Corona is grateful for his efforts and salute him as he departs. I look forward to continuing to work with him for the good of our community in the future.

NATIONAL SERVICE DAY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Service Day, a day on which we commemorate those who are committed to civic duty and helping their communities. National Service represents opportunity, responsibility and community.

In 1992, when President Bill Clinton was launching his dream of national service, he said, "We need a new spirit of community, a sense that we are all in this together, or the American Dream will continue to wither. Our Destiny is bound up with the destiny of every other American." Less than a year later, his dream was realized.

I was pleased to support the National and Community Trust Act in 1993, which created AmeriCorps, a domestic national service program founded on the framework of Federal, State and local partnership.

Since the inception of AmeriCorps, over 200,000 Americans have been able to serve their country, and more importantly, their communities.

I am proud that many citizens have been able to take advantage of serving in AmeriCorps. I am also proud that many of my constituents have chosen to give back to their communities in many different ways.

In the Commonwealth of Virginia, over 18,000 citizens of all ages and backgrounds are participating in over 90 national service projects, which include coordinating after-school programs, building homes and organizing neighborhood watch groups.

I am pleased to say, that this year, the Corporation for National Service will provide Virginia with more than \$6 million dollars to support Virginia communities through three national service initiatives: AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and National Senior Service Corps.

After September 11th, much has been said about "giving back to our communities" in a time of national crisis, and I strongly believe that Americans want to continue this trend, even when the present threat is gone.

When citizens are deeply-rooted to their communities, when they have seen with their

own eyes the positive impact that their service has made on their communities, and when these same communities are boosted, national service has served its very local purpose.

I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to recognize National Service Day, and honor those who represent the true American ideals of opportunity, responsibility and community.

CODE TALKERS RECOGNITION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3250, the Code Talkers Recognition Act. This bill expresses Congress' recognition towards the Native American Code Talkers for their honorable contribution in the U.S. victories during World War I and II.

The Sioux, Comanche, and Choctaw Code Talkers served on the frontlines of World War II in the European fronts and on the Pacific. During World War I the Choctaw Code Talkers served as radio airmen who were positioned in the widest possible area for communications that resulted in the successful transferring of their unbreakable code.

Many Native American Code Talkers provided vital combat information in their native language, regarding the enemies' locations and their strength. As a result, countless American soldier's lives were saved in battle. As a member of the House Committee of Veteran Affairs, I acknowledge the magnitude of commitment these men carried out in order to defend our Country and to grasp victory.

Last year on July 26, 2001, I had the privilege to participate in the Congressional Gold Medal award ceremony for the Navajo Code Talkers. Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation that will honor additional heroes of America, the Sioux, Comanche, and Choctaw Code Talkers. These code talkers respectfully deserve equal recognition for their heroic support in World Wars I and II.

RECOGNIZING THE GWINNETT HOUSING RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP'S 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the Gwinnett Housing Resource Partnerships's (GHRP) 10-year Anniversary. This event coincides with Gwinnett County naming June as Homeownership Month.

The Gwinnett Housing Resource Partnership is a non-profit housing counseling agency which strives to help low- and moderate-income households, including the homeless, become home owners. GHRP works toward combating predatory lending by educating over 600 households.

GHRP is led by the Executive Director, Marina Peed, whose dedication to excellence makes her a role model to her coworkers and

the neighboring counties. I am pleased to honor GHRP and Marina Peed for their impressive accomplishments and wish them continuous success.

FINALISTS FOR NATIONAL HISTORY DAY CONTEST

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the National History Day finalists from my district in South Carolina—McArn Bennett, Bryan Blair, Jordan Thomas, Meagan Linton, Mary Carolyn Hudson, and Angel Burns.

The students were part of a nationwide group of 2,000 finalists participating in the National History Day contest at the University of Maryland at College Park June 9–13th. They brought with them the products of months of research in the form of dramatic performances and museum exhibits.

McArn Bennett's exhibit, "Discord in Harmony: Revolution and Reaction in Jazz," won first place in the nation in the category of senior individual exhibit. He received a gold medal and \$1,000.

Bryan Blair's exhibit, "The Orangeburg Massacre: Revolution, Reaction, and Reform in South Carolina" was one of 17 student projects selected to be presented at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. It was ranked 11th in the nation, and he won a partial-tuition scholarship to Chaminade University in Honolulu.

An exhibit by Meagan Linton, Jordan Thomas, and Mary Carolyn Hudson entitled "Tears of Sorrow, Tears of Joy: The Reaction to the Assassination of Abe Lincoln," was shown at the White House Visitors Center. Their exhibit was ranked 12th in the nation.

Angel Burns won applause for a ten-minute individual performance entitled "Septima Clark: Queen Mother of the Civil Rights Revolution."

I want to salute all of these students for their outstanding work, and I also want to recognize their teachers, Gail Ingram, from Cheraw High School, and Debbie Ballard, from Long Junior High School. Together, they have brought a great sense of pride to their schools and their communities and helped make history come alive for their students.

JUNETEENTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the historic significance of June 19th, known as Juneteenth, a day which marks the end of slavery across America and the independence of African Americans.

Juneteenth began in the great State of Texas when Major General Gordon Granger of the Union Army led his troops into the city of Galveston. There, on June 19, 1865, he officially proclaimed freedom for slaves in that State. Note that this was two and a half years

after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which had become official January 1, 1863. Thus it was on Juneteenth that the African American slaves of Texas and other parts of the South celebrated the final execution of the Emancipation Proclamation, giving them their freedom forever.

The celebration of Juneteenth which has not until recently received its rightful day of national appreciation is not only a showcase of the African American community's positive contributions to the American way of life, but it also makes a statement for all Americans that the United States is truly the "Land of the Free." Juneteenth is an expression and extension of American freedom and, like the Fourth of July, a time for all Americans to celebrate our independence, human rights, civil rights and freedom.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO BETTY JO SHERMAN ON HER NFRW TRIBUTE NOMINATION

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding citizen from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. Betty Jo Sherman will be honored by the Ohio Chapter of the National Federation of Republican Women on Sunday, June 23, 2002 for her continued dedication to the electoral process.

Mr. Speaker, Betty Jo is celebrating this monumental occasion with family, friends, and colleagues, all who have known of her selfless contributions to the U.S. electoral system. Serving a democratic institution was not only Betty Jo's duty but also her honor. These opportunities to contribute to a fundamentally American responsibility have brought her a lifetime of both personal and professional achievement. Betty Jo truly is a valued citizen of the State of Ohio.

Betty Jo continues to lead a distinguished career as an advocate for the participation in American political process, which is made evident through the numerous positions she has held within the local and state Republican Party. She has also served her local community by becoming the first woman to be elected to the Woodmore, Ohio Board of Education. Betty Jo has been active in the electoral process since the early 1970's and tirelessly continues to serve both the interests of that system and those of her local community. These achievements demonstrate not only that Betty Jo is dedicated to the strong ideals of the American electoral process, but also to the vision of our founding fathers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Betty Jo Sherman. Our democratic institutions are served well by having such honorable and giving citizens, like Betty Jo, who care about the active participation of all Americans in the electoral process. I am confident that Betty Jo will continue to serve her community as an advocate of citizen participation in the American electoral system well into the future. We wish her the very best on this special occasion.

HONORING JANET COHN OF CONNECTICUT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Janet Cohn of Connecticut, who died on April 25th at 92 years young. Mrs. Cohn was the wife of the late Yale Cohn, who passed away in 1995, and mother of the Secretary of the Connecticut State Democratic party. She was an active member of the League of Women Voters as well as various other West Hartford organizations.

Born in New York City, Mrs. Cohn moved to Connecticut where she skipped two grades and graduated from Rockville High School as class valedictorian at the age of 16. From there she went on to work at the Aetna Insurance Company due to the fact that college was financially out of the question.

At Aetna, her exceptional skill as a typist was widely known as well as her tendency to distract most of her gentleman co-workers with her flapper skirts, as she would gleefully report to all those who inquired.

Mrs. Cohn met Yale at a dance for Jewish singles and married in 1933. Soon after, her skills in the workplace caused the company to break its then longstanding policy of firing female employees after they married. After she left Aetna, she took up the books at her husband's fish store, the Bostonian Fishery.

A self-proclaimed "old fashioned girl," Mrs. Cohn refused to bow to the increase in technology over the years, which meant that she never used a videotape recorder or flew in a plane. Her lack of travel only increased her focus on the welfare of her community. After moving to West Hartford in 1964, she became chairwoman of her voting district, pitching in wherever she felt that she was needed most.

In addition to her love of politics, Mrs. Cohn found time for her love of painting, making hand painted cards for the birthdays of all of the many members of her family. She even found the time to serve as a Justice of the Peace, a role she gladly played at the age of 91 for her own granddaughter's wedding ceremony. She leaves behind two daughters, four grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Janet Cohn was an exceptional human being whose love of life was contagious to all those she came into contact with. She will truly be missed by the community she served for so many years, but most of all by her loving family.

THE PLIGHT OF HAITIAN AND AFRICAN REFUGEES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, though the events of September 11 were a tragic and unbelievable experience for almost all of us in this country, some of the policies and security measures that we are creating and enforcing because of it go against the principles that we as a nation stand for. The freedoms that many

countries deny their citizens, but we allow to ours, has been the reason that we have been able to shine as the great nation that we are. The responsibility that we have taken on by assisting victims of terror and oppression have separated us from other countries and again helped us to create a nation dedicated to the welfare of all peoples. However as a result of 9-11, we have started to retract on these policies. And though they may be grounded in a fear that is all too real, retracting on our principles and ideals will not remove that fear, nor will it solve the problem. Two groups that have been affected the most by some of the new policies and/or security measures are two groups that need it the most. Haitian and African refugees are suffering in their homelands and are turning to the U.S. for aid, nonetheless, we are turning them away and/or allowing them to enter the U.S. and continue their suffering in detainment centers. Will we allow ourselves to succumb to the laws of other countries that deny people their rights and ability to live as free civilized peoples?

In December, the Administration initiated a policy, which detains all Haitians seeking asylum in Miami. This policy is unmistakably discriminatory: 91 percent of refugees from other nations are given parole in American communities while they seek asylum, while Haitians who have been granted asylum often remain in detention. The policy's objective, to deter Haitians from risking their lives to come to the U.S. by boat, has not been successful. Many Haitians are not aware of this new policy and some choose to face detainment here rather than face terrorism at home. In fact, approximately 97 percent of Haitians seeking asylum are detained. For a country that was built on a historical acceptance of refugees, does it make logical sense that we treat refugees in this manner? Most Americans' ancestors came here escaping problems in their homelands as well, yet were not treated with the same disdain. Yet this goes beyond disdain, these people lack the basic rights that we as a country preach that everyone should have. These people are detained in facilities that have surpassed their maximum limit. They are not given ample time to obtain legal assistance or prepare and file their claim of asylum. They are not given sufficient medical care. Their children are denied educational services and are not allowed recreational time outdoors. They are housed with criminal prisoners even though they themselves are not. Their human rights are being violated. It is important that we ensure the due process and equal protection to Haitians asylum seekers as they turn to us for help.

The treatment of African refugees is equally problematic. According to the Interaction's Committee on Migration and Refugee Affairs, almost 50 percent of the world's 25 million internally displaced persons are in Africa, yet we only allow 31 percent of all refugees admitted to the U.S. are African. And, because the Department of State has consistently not processed refugees, we have not been able to reach our refugee allocations throughout the 1980s and 90s. For the Fiscal Year 2002, the allocation for Africa was 22,000 yet only 891 African refugees were admitted into the country. In 1999, \$120 was spent on a refugee from Yugoslavia, whereas \$35 was spent on one refugee from Africa. If African refugees are in greater need why are their needs being neglected?

Witness the case of Melrose Coker, an African refugee from Sierra Leone, who has languished in two different refugee camps since 1999. She and her children have been subjected to hazardous labor exploitation, physical abuse, denial of education, sexual violence and exploitation. While trying to survive hardships in one of these camps, Melrose was able to make contact with her family in the United States. Her mother was deeply troubled and saddened by the hardships Melrose and her family suffered in Guinea. She could not sit back and watch while her daughter and grandchildren suffered. She therefore petitioned for Melrose and her family to be provided with visas to travel to the United States, for purposes of family reunification and resettlement. This petition was filed with a local refugee agency in New York City in 1999. Several months passed and no feed-back was received from the agency handling the petition. Several petitions have been filed by Melrose's family in the United States, with various agencies and UNECR, to resettle Melrose's family in the United States. Thus far, all of these efforts have been unsuccessful. Inquiries into the status of her case have all produced no information or response. Meanwhile, Melrose and her family continue to perish while putting their lives at risk everyday, living in fear, poverty and squalor. Melrose's voice is reaching out from the depths of darkness and misery and is crying out to us today. Not only has Melrose's family suffered some of the worst atrocities ever recorded in the world during the war in Sierra Leone, but they continue to remain at risk in the refugee camps in Guinea—where they are supposed to find safety. I, therefore, appeal to you to listen to Melrose's voice calling from beyond the tents of refugee camps in Guinea. I urge you to take on the challenge to protect her and resettle and reunify her with her family in the United States.

Finally, Haitian and African refugees are in dire need of our help and as we close our doors to their pleas or continue to allow them to be mistreated in our own nation, we join alliances with those that are for the inhumane treatment of human beings. Have we not dedicated ourselves to promoting the freedom of those deprived of rights that we believe are inherent to human life? The answer is yes. The United States has been a leader in the protection of refugees and as we decline in our dedication to those that need our aid so do the rest of the resettlement countries. We must remember the events of September 11th and learn how to prevent them, but we cannot do so at the cost of the lives of others. We were attacked on that day because of our principles, if we retract on them, we our only allowing ourselves to lose in the war on terrorism. The Haitian and African refugees need our help; let us stand up for what we believe in and give them the rights that they deserve.

TRIBUTE TO MS. SALLY SCHMITZ

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to Ms. Sally Schmitz on the occasion of her retirement after an exceptional career as the Administrative Assistant

and Office Manager of the Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OAC).

For the past fifteen years, Ms. Schmitz has served the business community and citizens of the City of Ottawa in an outstanding fashion—oftentimes providing the behind-the-scenes coordination for many of the City of Ottawa's most attractive and successful events.

Some of these key events made successful in large part because of Ms. Schmitz's organizational abilities include the Ottawa Area Chamber's sold-out annual meeting banquet at Starved Rock Lodge; the OAC's Business Expo and BIP Golf Outing; the huge Welcomeburger community event; many Riverfest activities and the expanding Farmers Market.

In addition to coordinating these key events which have enhanced and enriched the quality of life in the City of Ottawa, Ms. Schmitz has played a vital role over the years in helping the Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry develop into a vigorous and effective organization. For example, Ms. Schmitz's work to maintain an efficient office operation while supporting OAC membership recruitment and retention efforts have been absolutely critical to the success of the Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am proud and pleased to be able to offer to my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives the example of Ms. Sally Schmitz as an outstanding community servant whose work during the course of her career has helped build the Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry into perhaps the leading public service organization in the City of Ottawa.

IN RECOGNITION OF JACK LOFTIS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jack Loftis, the longtime Associate Publisher and Editor of the Houston Chronicle, who will officially retire on July 1, 2002, after serving nearly 50 years in Texas journalism.

A native of Hillsboro, Texas, Jack Loftis began his journalism career as a sportswriter for the Hillsboro Daily Mirror while still attending Baylor University, where he received a BBA degree in the spring of 1957. Soon after he was named editor of the paper in 1962. Mr. Loftis joined the Houston Chronicle in 1965 as a copy editor and five years later became editor of the Texas Magazine, the paper's Sunday rotogravure section. In 1972, he was promoted to features editor and began his rise through the newspaper's executive ranks and in 1974 was named assistant managing editor. Promoted to assistant editor in 1979 and vice president and editor in 1987, Jack Loftis gained the additional titles of executive vice president in 1990 and associate publisher in 1998. At the age of 67, Mr. Loftis has been the Chronicle's ranking editor during the past 15 years and the ninth in the Chronicle's 100-year history. His tenure is second only to that of M. E. Foster, who founded the paper in 1901 and served as its editor for 26 years.

Throughout his career Jack Loftis has remained involved in a number of organizations aimed at improving the Houston community.

He is a founding director of Crime Stoppers of Houston, Inc., Vice President of the Chronicle's Goodfellows holiday charity and a former member of both the Houston READ Commission and the Clean Houston Commission. Mr. Loftis, along with his wife Beverly has been involved in activities connected with the Lone Star Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Friends of the West University Park and Citizens for Animal Protection.

Jack Loftis' exemplary model of community activism has earned him the respect and praise of his colleagues, community leaders and countless community organizations. He was the recipient of the United Way Loving Hand Award (1994); the Headliners Foundation of Texas' Lifetime Achievement Award (1995); Honorary chairman of the 1995 Inaugural Committee; Newspaper Features Hall of Fame (1997); the Freedom of the Information Foundation of Texas' James Madison Award (1999); and the Pulitzer Prize Nominating Juror (1999 and 2000).

Honored as a Baylor Distinguished Alumnus in 1988, Loftis was a member of the school's Sesquicentennial Council of 150 during 1993–95 and received the Baylor Communications Award in 1997. He currently is a member of the executive committee of the Baylor Alumni Association and chairs the advisory board for The Baylor Line, the association's quarterly magazine. Also, in recognition of his legacy, Baylor University has named the press box at its newly constructed Baylor Ballpark stadium in Jack Loftis' honor.

Jack Loftis recently summed up his career best by saying: "Since the day I walked in the Chronicle my intention has been to do what was best for the community, this newspaper and this staff. I hope I have succeeded more times than I have failed." Mr. Speaker there is no question that Jack Loftis has succeeded in improving our city, state and nation and establishing the Houston Chronicle as one of America's leading daily newspapers. Throughout his tenure, Jack witnessed and reported on the tremendous growth of Houston and Texas, the rise (and sometimes the fall) of its leaders and every day lives of the people who make up our great nation. Committed to the truth and a free, open, and democratic society, he has never shied away from reporting the news and expressing an opinion regardless of controversy or consternation. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate my friend on his tremendous career and commend him on a job well done.

DENTAL AMALGAM SAFETY

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to support the continued recognition of Amalgam as a safe and appropriate material to be used in dental fillings.

Numerous studies conducted by a diverse assortment of health research organizations including the National Institutes of Health, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Public Health Service, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention all confirm that the use of Amalgam in dental fillings is safe. With the costs of healthcare already soaring it is important to protect those treatments that have a

proven track record of reliability and are cost effective for patients.

Dentists have come to rely on the use of Amalgam as a harmless, dependable, and cost effective material with which to treat their patients and I believe the use of Amalgam should remain a viable option for dentists and their patients.

FACTS ON THE 2002 ASSISTANCE
TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANTS

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, USFA has just recently completed its peer review of the applications for this year.

Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety: \$882,539,097 representing 58 percent of the applications.

Fire Fighting Vehicles: \$1.26 billion representing 37 percent of the applications.

Emergency Medical Services: \$35,174,783 representing two percent of the applications.

Fire Prevention Programs: \$30,580,741 representing three percent of the applications.

Volunteer/Combination fire departments: 17,786 applications requesting more than \$1.9 billion.

Career fire departments: 1,733 applications requesting more than \$287 million.

This large number of requests by departments demonstrates just how significantly many fire departments are lacking the most basic of firefighting equipment.

Last year, only 4% of applicants received awards—through a peer reviewed process, which is the fairest, most effective way to distribute these funds.

Two years ago, Congress passed legislation authorizing a grant program to help fire departments enhance their ability to respond to fire and fire-related hazards. The program, known as the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, makes competitive, peer-reviewed awards to fire departments for basic needs such as training and equipment. In only its second year, the program has been extremely popular among the firefighting community and was appropriated at \$360 million for fiscal year 2002.

We invite you to co-sponsor H.R. 4548, which would protect the Assistance to Firefighters Grants as a program separate and distinct from the Administration's newly created initiative within FEMA aimed at helping emergency service personnel prepare for and respond to terrorist incidents. The fire service community has overwhelmingly opposed any consolidation of these two programs, concerned that it would negatively impact the grant program or possibly even eliminate it altogether. These programs, while both very important to first responders, serve distinct needs.

The efficient and cost effectiveness of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program has been of great benefit to America's fire service. Congressmen HOYER, WELDON of PA, and I ask your support as a cosponsor of this legislation that retains the current provisions of the program (authorized at \$900 million), as administered by the U.S. Fire Administration. To sign on as a cosponsor, contact me or Dan Byers at 225-5064.

MARKING INTERNATIONAL
REFUGEE DAY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, while Western nations mark and celebrate International Refugee Day today, the 3.3 million people who make up Africa's refugee population probably do not know that this day is for them. They are too busy eking out a living, a bare existence, in refugee camps and villages where they have found temporary safety.

Despite being the world leader in refugee resettlement, the U.S. has barely opened the door to African refugees. Helping Africans resettle here has not been a priority of U.S. policy since the end of the slave trade. In 1988, the Reagan Administration capped African admissions at just 3000, and fewer than 1600 Africans were actually admitted that year. From 1995 to 2000, 28% of the world's refugees were African, but only 11% of all the refugees resettled to the U.S. were Africans.

One policy of refugee resettlement was being applied to the world, while another policy with fewer admissions was being applied to Africa. I and my fellow members of the Congressional Black Caucus pressured the Clinton Administration to increase the admissions allocation for Africa, to rectify this imbalance, and to address the dire needs of people fleeing political persecution and violence in Africa.

By the end of the Clinton Administration in 2000, African admissions had climbed to 20,000 per year, largely due to the CBC's efforts. Our doors were opened to admit 22,000 African refugees this year. Despite this important victory—we are unlikely to see the fruits of our labor. Nowhere near 22,000 refugees will arrive from Africa this year, due to policy changes in the refugee program implemented after the September 11th attacks.

African admissions are down for several reasons. The Bush Administration imposed additional security checks—known as Special Advisory Opinions—on all men between the ages of 15 and 55 from certain Arab and Muslim countries, including some North and East African nations. They will not publicize this list so it is impossible to tell whether any male African refugees are exempt from this review, but processing has been very slow.

INS personnel stopped conducting circuit rides through Africa to conduct interviews of refugee applicants due to security concerns. Interviews were also stopped at processing locations in Kenya and Ghana for almost 6 months for security reasons.

The INS is also cracking down on "major inconsistencies" in the petitions of relatives seeking to join asylees already resettled in the U.S. In the worse cases, these differences include applications for parents who the resettled refugee originally claimed were murdered for political reasons, and applications for children who the refugee did not identify when they first applied for their refugee status. The rates of these inconsistencies are undeniably troubling. For some nationalities, more than 50% of family relative applications are inconsistent with the original applications filed by the resettled asylee.

Yet American and international voluntary organizations that assist in identifying refugees

for resettlement tell us that in some places refugees are bribed by middlemen who hold up their paperwork if they indicate that they have living relatives who can assist them. The fact that the vast majority of African applicants seek entry as relatives suggests that other categories of entry may not be effective ways of entry for Africans. A myriad of processing and filing errors, or fraud on the part of the anchor relative or a third party, may be to blame. Rather than seeking explanations and contacting the applicants, the INS assumes that one such inconsistency means that any other claims of persecution, no matter how brutal, are untrustworthy lies.

For all of these reasons, many of the most vulnerable populations children, amputees, widowed women, and those who languish in refugee camps—are not getting admission to a program that exists to protect them.

I remain deeply concerned that huge refugee camps still exist in Africa where thousands of people await a chance at a decent life for as many as 10 to 15 years. In that time children are raising themselves, and each other, to adulthood while living in the camps. Eighty percent of refugees in these camps are women and children—both vulnerable groups who are in need of protection and durable solutions. Families are under dire strain, reunification is difficult and resuming a normal productive life is impossible. The United States must do more to address these tragedies that are plaguing refugees in Africa.

It is also time for us to turn around the horribly unjust policy that the INS recently instituted to keep Haitian asylum seekers locked up like, and sometimes with, violent criminals. For years, the INS Miami office has paroled asylum seekers into the community, once they show credible fear of persecution, while they await the adjudication of their claims. That policy still applies to people from any nation in the world—except Haiti. The INS has decided to discriminate against Haitians, holding them for months without access to translators and lawyers, while they await a decision.

The INS has said that the purpose of this policy is to deter Haitians from risking their lives to flee Haiti by boat. If that were the case, the policy would have been applied to Cubans, and any other people that come to the U.S. by boat, at the time it was instituted. And what evidence exists to show that locking people up will keep those risking their lives and fleeing persecution from coming? The real goal appears to be to keep Haitians out of the United States and once again I must question whether race is a factor in this discriminatory policy.

About 250 refugees are now being held in Miami. Men are separated and put in the grossly overcrowded facilities at Krome Detention Center. Women are placed in a maximum security county jail with violent criminals. And children are being detained with one parent in a facility where they receive no education, no play time or trips outside, no special programs geared towards their needs.

It is bad enough that there are millions of refugees around the world who come to us for refuge from persecution. It is even worse that we are then persecuting some of these refugees when they arrive by placing them in these inhumane conditions. There is no political, strategic, security or moral justification for this policy. I call on the Attorney General to immediately parole Haitians—just like all other asylum seekers.

TRIBUTE TO ERNEST C. ("ERNIE")
SMITH

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for June 20, 2002, on behalf of my constituent.

In Loving Memory of Ernest C. ("Ernie") Smith.

For his contributions to his country as a United States Marine in numerous battles in the Pacific during World War II.

For his many years of service to his community as a school teacher and docent at the Oakland Museum.

For his unconditional and unending love, guidance and support of family as beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, and

For his camaraderie, humor and loyalty to all whom were blessed to count him as a friend,

He will be forever loved, respected and etched in our memories.

TRIBUTE TO DAY HIGUCHI

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding educator and leader—my very good friend, Day Higuchi. On June 22, 2002, Day will be honored at a luncheon held by his friends and colleagues to celebrate his thirty-two years of tireless work on behalf of the public schools of Los Angeles.

While serving as President of United Teachers of Los Angeles, Day has also devised a number of new and innovative ways of teaching that can be used throughout the many subjects he has taught in his career—science, drama, English and film making. He is recognized for his creativity and the unique manner in which he has continually refined his instructional methods, as he designed, then redesigned an innovative interdisciplinary team teaching program with three of his colleagues. Day has also improved instruction for students by creating school-to-career centers, increasing standards based instruction, and creating effective reading and math programs. In addition, he developed a system to improve teaching quality through internships for new teachers, and Professional Development Programs (PAR, NBC, ISCA, Education Advisory Committee, and Task Force on the Professional Work of Teachers).

It is no wonder that I have long turned to him as a prime advisor on issues relating to education. He is a distinguished expert on improving the performance both of students and of teachers.

Day's leadership within the United Teachers of Los Angeles has resulted in dramatic improvements in the working conditions of educators. He first served as Chapter Chair from 1973 to 1987, then moved on to become a member of the UTLA House of Representatives from 1974 to 2003, the Board of Direc-

tors from 1984 to 1988, the Director of East Area from 1988 to 1991, the UTLA/American Federation of Teachers Vice-President from 1992 to 1997, and President from 1997 to 2003.

Day's accomplishments as an advocate and leader are legion. He successfully fought for the rights of Union Members and for an increase in important benefits. He helped defeat the breakup of the Lomita district, negotiate raises averaging 23 percent, defeat propositions to silence labor, defeat the Draper initiative for vouchers and pass important school bonds measures.

Day is a remarkable man who has been a great asset to the Los Angeles Unified School District. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to ask my colleagues to join with me in paying tribute to Day Higuchi, who has dedicated his life to our children and their education.

TRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY OF DELAWARE COUNTY

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the contributions that the Community Action Agency of Delaware County has made to improve the lives of many low income county residents. Since their inception in 1979, this agency has served numerous families and individuals.

The Community Action Agency of Delaware County focuses on equipping low income families and individuals with the tools and life skills they need to develop and build their own resources. This goal is achieved through programs focusing on life skills, employment and training, housing, and community development. These programs allow my constituents to gain a sense of self-respect, self-esteem, and a renewed sense of faith in their own abilities. The qualities and skills they develop make it possible for them to lead lives free from dependent relationships with government agencies.

The Community Action Agency of Delaware County has been successful in combining public, private, and nonprofit resources to address the needs within the economically disadvantaged community. Through these efforts they have become a major provider of social services and housing in Delaware County. For their work, they have received accolades from the Council of Delaware County.

Mr. Speaker, the Community Action Agency of Delaware County is ensuring that true self-sufficiency is possible for everyone in Delaware County. I hope that all my colleagues will join me in recognizing their contributions to Delaware County, to Pennsylvania, and to our great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOSEPH PATRICK CRIBBINS

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Joseph Patrick Cribbins, a great American

patriot, who served the United States military and our nation, and who remains a hero in the hearts of South Texans and other Americans who knew him. He passed away this week.

This American soldier, with 52 years of military service, died on June 14, 2002, the 227th birthday of the United States Army.

He was a world-renowned expert in aviation safety and logistics, particularly in U.S. Army. As a young man, he was an expert horseman and steeplechase jockey. He joined the U.S. Army First Cavalry Division as a stable sergeant in the horse cavalry in 1940.

From there, he was deployed to the Philippines, joining the staff of General Douglas MacArthur in World War II, where he was commissioned as an officer. That is also where he met his wife of over 50 years, his beloved Helen who preceded him in death.

After a 26-year career in uniform, he entered the civil service with the Department of the Army in the Army Materiel Command in the Washington, D.C. area. His extraordinary achievements grew, as did Army aviation in the Vietnam Era and the late 20th Century. There, he became a major player in founding the aviation logistics office, which oversaw maintenance and supply activities.

This second Army career, in which he worked closely with the Corpus Christi Army Depot in South Texas, led to a second 26-year career culminating in his top rank as the third-ranked DA civilian, equivalent to a three-star general. He received numerous awards and decorations including four individual Presidential Awards for distinguished service, from four different Commanders-in-Chief.

I ask my colleagues to join me today as the nation mourns a lost warrior, one who helped defend freedom and democracy and shaped defense policy in the 20th Century Army.

PEACE CORPS CHARTER FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today my colleague Representative SAM FARR and I are introducing the Peace Corps Charter for the 21st Century Act. I thank my colleague for working so closely with me on this important bill.

I also thank Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD for introducing a companion bill in the Senate and working with us every step of the way in this effort. I look forward to continuing communication between the House and Senate and with the Administration to ensure the product that emerges from the legislative process is one that has strong bipartisan support as well as the support of returned and current Peace Corps volunteers everywhere.

My own background as an educator and director at Outward Bound for twenty years taught me about the importance of national and community service. But I also have strong connections to the Peace Corps—through my great state of Colorado and through my family. Colorado has one of the highest levels of recruitment of Peace Corps volunteers nationwide, and returned Peace Corps Volunteers in the 2nd Congressional District alone number over 500. Of course, the most important

Peace Corps connection for me is my mother, who served as a volunteer in Nepal decades ago.

Because of these connections I have a special interest in advancing the ability of the Peace Corps to play an important role in these new times.

As Americans, we have never been more proud of our country, our freedoms, our democracy, our diversity. We know how fortunate we are to live in the United States. And yet we were sent a clear message on September 11th that we are not necessarily viewed abroad the way we view ourselves at home. Why is this so? More importantly, how can we change this?

One way is to take multilateral action against terrorism, which we have done with the help of our allies in the months since 9–11. Another way is to continue to promote world peace and friendship through the people-to-people approach of the Peace Corps.

For over forty years, Peace Corps volunteers around the world have taught English and other subjects to foreign students, worked with small farmers to increase harvests, taught local people how to monitor their environment, and raised community awareness of health issues, among other things. The Peace Corps is one of the most admired and successful initiatives ever put in place.

But the Peace Corps's first director, Sargent Shriver, said in a speech at Yale last November that its founders made one mistake when they created the Peace Corps: They didn't go far enough or dream big enough. As he put it, "Our present world cries out for a new Peace Corps—a vastly improved, expanded, and profoundly deeper enterprise. . . . Peace is much more than the mere absence of war. Peace requires the simple but powerful recognition that what we have in common as human beings is more important and crucial than what divides us."

I think he was right. And the bill we are introducing today echoes that vision. The Peace Corps mission reflects the fact that with economic development and mutual understanding come greater opportunities for peace. And every small step we take to help and understand people in other countries has its own rewards.

A pebble tossed into a still pond creates ripples that begin small and grow larger. Peace Corps volunteers have had this same effect on the people they have touched. The Peace Corps experience exemplifies how individuals can make a tremendous difference in the lives and perceptions of people in developing countries as well as people right here at home.

More than 166,000 Americans have served in 135 countries over the past 40 years. Many more are prepared to serve; since the beginning of this year, requests for Peace Corps applications have increased by 77 percent. This is good news, as we are finally building solid support behind the idea of doubling the size—as well as the impact—of the Peace Corps.

It was the Reagan Administration that first articulated the notion of expanding the size of Peace Corps to 10,000 volunteers. We're pleased that President Bush has embraced this important goal and has pledged to seek to double the size to 15,000 in five years. The bill we're introducing today builds on that concept and goes beyond it to propose a new post-9-11 "Charter" for the Peace Corps.

The "Peace Corps Charter" strengthens the Peace Corps in a number of ways. It restates and further promotes its goals—to provide technical assistance to those in need around the world, to promote better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served, and to bring the world home to America. It authorizes funding to allow for a Peace Corps expansion to 15,000 volunteers in five years. It reaffirms the independence of the Peace Corps. It authorizes a number of reports, such as one on host country security. It spells out a commitment to recruit and place Peace Corps volunteers in countries where they could help promote mutual understanding, particularly in areas with substantial Muslim populations. It establishes training programs for Peace Corps volunteers in the areas of education, prevention, and treatment of infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS. It streamlines and empowers the Peace Corps Advisory Council, with an added focus of making use of the expertise of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. Finally, the bill creates a grant program to enable Returned Peace Corps Volunteers to use their experience and expertise to continue to carry out the goals of the Peace Corps through specific projects.

As Sargent Shriver stated in his November speech, we need a new world of peace. Today we join with the Administration in its call for an expanded and refocused Peace Corps that can take on the new challenges that September 11th has presented to us, a Peace Corps that can be "a pragmatic and dramatic symbol of America's commitment to peace." I believe that passage of the Peace Corps Charter for the 21st Century will help us head in this direction.

I look forward to working with our colleagues in the House as we move forward with this vital legislation.

RECOGNIZING JIM NEELY FOR HIS
YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the years of selfless public service of a dear friend of mine, Mr. James Neely. Jim recently received the Pinnacle of Excellence Award, the highest honor offered by the people of Huntingdon, Tennessee, which I am proud to say is also the hometown of my wife, Betty Ann.

Mr. Neely and his wife, Rachel Todd Neely, live in Huntingdon in Carroll County, Tennessee. They have a daughter and son-in-law, Hope and Michael Turner, a granddaughter, Neely Turner, and a second grandchild on the way.

Jim is a graduate of Huntingdon High School and the University of Tennessee at Martin. Since that time, he has been a leader in our community and in the state, including serving as Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Labor and as President of the Tennessee AFL-CIO Labor Council.

Other state positions he has held include seats on the Employment Security Advisory Council, the Cabinet Council on Indigent Health Care, the Commission on Higher Education, the Advisory Council on Worker's Com-

pensation and the Safety Congress Board of Directors, which he also founded. He has chaired the Planning Committee for the Tennessee Job Partnership Council and the state Workforce Development Planning Committee.

His other accomplishments include past Chairman of the Huntingdon Special School District Board of Education and past Member of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta Advisory Board.

Jim has said he is proud to be from Huntingdon, Tennessee. Today, Mr. Speaker, I say that we are proud to have such a fine leader as one of our own. I ask that you and our colleagues join me in recognizing my friend, Mr. James Neely, for all he has done to make a difference.

CONGRATULATING TIGER WOODS

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to offer my congratulations to Tiger Woods. Over the weekend, he won the 102nd U.S. Open, held this year at Bethpage Black Golf Course.

The victory did not come easy. A strong field started the tournament on Thursday and the players had to fight through three days of torrential rain. The course, the longest in U.S. Open history, was also regarded as among the most difficult courses ever played.

But Tiger's poise and concentration, as well as wealth of talent, helped him through the week. He managed to shoot a 277, three under par. Tiger was the only golfer of the 155 that competed, who managed to finish under par.

With the victory, Tiger's tally of major tournaments won climbed to eight. He has won six of the last nine major championships, and seven of 11—an unbelievable streak.

Despite all his accomplishments, Tiger is still aiming higher. He now says he wants to win all four majors in the same year, a grand slam—something that has never been done before. But, I'm certain with Tiger's discipline and talent he will accomplish this as well.

So as I conclude, Mr. Speaker, I would once again like to congratulate Tiger in his most recent victory. I would also like to congratulate and thank Tiger for being such a positive role model for our nation's children. He is a great inspiration for them. Lastly, I would like to wish him good luck in his efforts to win the grand slam and achieving all the other goals he sets for himself. He is a tremendous athlete and fine individual and deserves all the best.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. RUTH C. GIST

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Ruth C. Gist of Union, South Carolina on occasion of the Union County Pacolet River Baptist Association declaring Saturday June 22, 2002, Mrs. Ruth C. Gist Day in Union South Carolina.

Mrs. Ruth C. Gist has devoted her life to her family, her community and Christian service.

She has served as a role model for her family and fellow community members. She is described as a "woman of strong moral values, great strength, integrity and dignity."

Mrs. Ruth C. Gist has five children all of whom I have had the privilege to interact with professionally and socially. She has five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. In addition, she has served as a surrogate parent to numerous other children in her church and local community all of whom she tries to serve by precept and example.

Because of her selfless devotion and tireless community service, Mrs. Gist's, church family, and the citizens of Union County have deemed it appropriate to recognize her for her years of unselfish service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Gist on this momentous day, Mrs. Ruth C. Gist Day, in Union County, South Carolina. I wish her good luck and Godspeed.

ON INTRODUCTION OF BILL THAT
PAYS TRIBUTE TO STEVEN
PINIAHA

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill that pays tribute to an especially brave man from New Jersey, Private First Class Steven Piniaha. This bill would authorize the President to award Private Piniaha, the Congressional Medal of Honor, for his gallantry in action near Pirkenbrunn, Germany, on April 25, 1945. For his courageous and selfless actions on the battlefield, this man is truly a great American patriot.

In response to the call of duty, Private Piniaha was unable to dislodge a force of enemy riflemen from their dug-in positions on a hillside with tank fire. Private Piniaha dismounted his tank and boldly stormed the hill. Although twice thrown to the ground by concussion grenades he continued forward until he was mere yards from the enemy and then forced the surrender of twelve of the enemy. Private Piniaha's fearless courage, dauntless initiative and devotion to duty reflect credit on himself and are in keeping with the highest military traditions.

After leaving the service, Mr. Piniaha, spent a quarter of a century coaching little league baseball and football. He is married and has eight grownup children. He is currently retired.

Although the American colonists were victorious in the revolutionary war 219 years ago, the American pursuit of liberty did not end there. Throughout the past 2 centuries, young Americans like Private Piniaha have fought to preserve our country's values both inside and outside its borders. In this struggle, one of our most valuable resources has been our soldiers and their dedication to upholding American ideals.

This July 4th, when we celebrate the birth of our beloved nation and all it means to us, we must acknowledge the brave and selfless actions of dedicated American soldiers like Private Piniaha. Through his courageous military service, Private Piniaha has done his part to ensure that America may celebrate its independence year after year.

I urge support for this bill that honors Private Piniaha's contribution to American military history. Thanks to brave soldiers like Private Piniaha, we retain our freedom and we protect democracy around the world. I ask all my colleagues to join me in commending Private Piniaha's sacrifice for our nation.

HONORING ERNEST R. GRECCO

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ernest R. Grecco, an extraordinary leader and community activist who serves as President of the Metropolitan Baltimore Council AFL-CIO Unions. Mr. Grecco is recognized for his commitment to "the right of all working people to join unions" and his ongoing work in serving the Baltimore area.

Mr. Grecco's distinguished involvement with the labor movement has flourished since his initial engagement while working for Calvert Distilleries. Ernest Grecco's perseverance and open mindedness have allowed him to rise through the ranks of AFL-CIO Unions leadership. First serving as the COPE Director of the Metropolitan Baltimore Council AFL-CIO Unions in 1976, he became the director of the Maryland State and District of Columbia branch of this organization in 1983. Then in 1987, as a result of his genuine dedication to bettering the lives of people, Mr. Grecco advanced to his current role as the President of Metropolitan Baltimore division of this organization.

Since then, Ernest Grecco has maintained his commitment in providing services to working people. His support for the Community Service division of the Metropolitan Baltimore Council AFL-CIO Unions has strengthened projects in areas of education, job placement and community action.

However, his message of hard work, dedication and justice is not confined to the labor movement. Ernest Grecco is extensively involved in all facets of the community. Not only is he the Secretary of the United Way Board of Directors, but Mr. Grecco also serves as a member of the Private Industry Council, the Governor's Work Force Investment Board and the Empower Baltimore Committee, among countless other distinguished organizations.

Through all his public service, Mr. Grecco has distinguished himself in the state of Maryland. He proclaimed that "Labor is alive and well in Maryland" and works hard each day to improve the lives of workers.

In July, Mr. Grecco will be celebrating his 60th birthday with family and friends. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Ernest R. Grecco for his service to the AFL-CIO Unions and devotion to the people of Maryland.

CONGRATULATING THE WILLIAMS
SISTERS

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Williams sisters on their mag-

nificent play during the 2002 French Open. The two sisters, Venus and Serena, met recently in the finals of the French Open and provided an exciting game for us to watch. In the end, Serena defeated her big sister in straight sets, 7-5, 6-3 to become champion. It was a great match and I look forward to watching them compete in the future. I would not be surprised to see them competing against each other in other finals over the next few years.

Recently, Venus was ranked number one in the world by the Women's Tennis Association. And Serena was ranked number two. It is the first time sisters have ever held the top two spots in the world. It is quite an accomplishment.

Venus and Serena have dominated the tennis scene since they arrived in 1994 and 1997, respectively. Together, they have won over 27 tournaments and six grand slam titles. When Venus won the 2000 Wimbledon championship, she became the first female black champion since 1958 when Althea Gibson won the title. In the same year, she teamed up with her sister to win the doubles championship. Venus went on to win Wimbledon last year and is the top ranked woman this year. She also won the Olympic gold medal for singles and doubles in the Sydney Games. To win the Olympic doubles gold medal, she paired up with Serena. The two sisters overwhelmed the competition with power and hard work, winning the gold medal match 6-1, 6-1. With that victory, Venus became the first woman, since 1924, to win the gold in singles and doubles competition.

Serena is also quite accomplished. She has fifteen career wins under her belt. As I mentioned, she won her second Grand Slam title at the French Open this year, her first coming at the 1999 U.S. Open. When she won that title, Serena became the lowest seed to win the women's title in the Open era. She is ranked number two at Wimbledon this year.

So it appears that most expect the sisters to reach the Wimbledon finals this year. If it does happen, it would be the third all-Williams Grand Slam final in 10 months. And their seventh championship in the past 12 Grand Slam singles events.

In closing, I wish Venus and Serena the best of luck at Wimbledon and offer my sincere congratulations to them for their remarkable achievements.

TRIBUTE TO BROOKLAND BAPTIST
CHURCH

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brookland Baptist Church, of West Columbia, South Carolina, on the occasion of their Centennial year.

This Sunday, June 23, 2002, will be Brookland Baptist Church's Men's Day Celebration during which they will celebrate 100 years of Christian service. Although this church—as many others—is made of bricks and mortar, to its community it symbolizes the body of Christ. In times of need, Brookland Baptist has been, and continues to be, a place of comfort and support. In times of joy, it has

been and is a gathering place for families and friends to join in celebration. Every day, and in every way this church has been a place of sanctity and worship. Brookland Baptist's entire church family is to be commended for its commitment and service.

Brookland Baptist Church not only has demonstrated great love and loyalty to its community, but also has shown its resilience and strength over the years. This prominent church in West Columbia started out with modest roots. In the 1800's, Brookland Baptist Church held its first meetings in the home of Mrs. Francis Millage. But from this modest beginning, the members—with faith in their hearts—were able to construct Brookland's first church edifice in Triangle City, West Columbia, in 1902. Since that time the church moved twice in order to have space for its growing congregation. Today the Church has a 2,200 seat sanctuary, and will break ground next year on a new Family Life Center. The church currently has 4,500 members in their congregation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing Brookland Baptist Church for its dedication and commitment, endless faith and devotion, and the love and contributions it has shown to the community of West Columbia. Congratulations on this latest milestone in its rich history. May God continue to bless the good works of this great Church and smile upon each of its outstanding members.

A TRIBUTE TO ADAM N. HASKINS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Adam N. Haskins and his commitment to service.

From an early age, Adam focused on education, personal growth, spirituality, and serving his community. After receiving his high school diploma from Brooklyn College Academy, he will pursue a Computer Science degree at Central Connecticut State University.

Mr. Haskins has always been very involved in extra-curricular activities at school. He was a member of the Leadership Team, participated in a walk-a-thon for the March of Dimes, the Toys for Tots drive and many school fundraising drives. Adam has also received many awards including the National Commemorative Certificate in the Arts from the United States Achievement Academy. The New York Metropolitan Museum of Art honored him with the Saint Gauden's medal for visual arts.

Adam's mother, Peggy, inspired him to get involved in his community. He was a valuable intern in my Brooklyn district office. During his internship, he was involved in many community projects including the Toy Gun Exchange, the community Christmas Tree lighting, town hall meetings, and health forums. He was also closely involved with Congressman Towns' Youth Initiative.

Mr. Speaker, Adam N. Haskins is a fine young man who has an outstanding record of achievement in his school and in his community. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable person.

NATIONAL SERVICE DAY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Service Day, celebrated every year on June 20, but more important to Americans this year than ever before.

Following the events of September 11, I, like many Americans, felt the need to respond not only with my checkbook but also with my actions. Indeed, many of us felt a yearning to find meaning in those tragic events by actively participating in our nation's healing process; and we came together in a way that many of us had not seen in generations.

Long before that horrifying day, President John F. Kennedy captured what so many of us felt in the wake of our national disaster. He pointed to the need Americans have always had to participate in spreading America's values of freedom, justice and opportunity around the world. "We have, in this country," he said, "an immense reservoir of men and women anxious to sacrifice their energies and time and toil to the cause of world peace and human progress . . . knowing that he or she is sharing in the great common task of bringing to man that decent way of life which is the foundation of freedom and a condition of peace." Americans since September 11 have indeed responded to that calling and contributed their share in our nation's, and the world's, rejuvenation.

Yet they have learned what many Americans have known all along: that service benefits not only the recipient of the deed, but the giver as well, in ways far less tangible, but perhaps even more meaningful. Service has always been an answer to man's quest for purpose and meaning in life, elevating him, bringing him closer to people from different backgrounds and teaching him that the world can be improved even through the small acts of individuals. Thus, when President John F. Kennedy asked Americans not to be dependent on our country, but rather to do for our country, we understood what he meant because we knew the value of national service. Our appreciation of its enriching nature ensured our overwhelming response to his call.

AmeriCorps is perhaps the most celebrated example of the drive Americans have always had to lend a hand to those in need. Since it was initiated by President Clinton in 1993, more than 250,000 men and women have served in AmeriCorps, providing needed assistance to millions of Americans, particularly in tutoring programs. The Corporation for Public Management, an independent evaluator, found that students tutored by AmeriCorps members completed their homework 67 percent more often, and 75 percent of those students improved the quality of their homework as well. In my district, in the last year alone, AmeriCorps provided in-school and after-school tutoring to 250 children in five elementary schools in order to improve children's language arts performance. The Corps members in my district also tutored 300 disadvantaged students and parents at homework centers and engaged youth in service-learning projects. AmeriCorps, however, is just one of many organizations in my district that I look to as inspiring examples of community service.

The Connecticut Commission on National and Community Service is another shining example, dedicated to incorporating volunteerism into a positive personal experience to strengthen communities. Based in Hartford, the Commission envisions a Connecticut in which every citizen embraces the ethic of community service. Through a multitude of service opportunities, individuals will understand the social needs of their communities and will embark on fulfilling their most American of wishes—to help others. By recognizing this opportunity to serve, barriers that have hindered a sense of community will be lifted, and citizens across age, ethnic, racial, and economic strata will come together around a common good.

It is therefore incumbent on us here in Congress to do all we can to encourage service in this time when so many Americans are yearning for ways to do their share and find scraps of meaning in the rubble of September 11. Now, more than ever, we can expose young people to the uplifting value of serving their community and their nation.

Therefore, I join supporters of national service across the country by calling on my colleagues and on President Bush to expand American's national service programs, such as AmeriCorps. Congressmen FORD and OSBORNE introduced the "Call to Service Act" which seeks to quintuple AmeriCorps service openings to 250,000, expand senior service, create a "citizen soldier" for short term military enlistments, and increase the involvement of college work study participants in community service. We must act to pass that legislation and its companion in the Senate in order to ensure that the opportunity to participate in service be available to all Americans. Similarly, the Senate Armed Services Committee has reported legislation creating a citizen soldier option. We must take up these pieces of legislation and move forward so that national service can become not just a special chance for a few but a way of life for all Americans.

At a time when Americans from all walks of life are asking what they can do to help make our nation safer, stronger and better, national service offers an answer that points us towards a higher politics of individual and national purpose.

CONGRATULATING THE BOROUGH OF OAKLAND ON ITS ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Borough of Oakland on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. Oakland, New Jersey is a valley community nestled in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains. It has become community known for its dedication to its people, programs, and the preservation of its history and natural resources. The warmth and intimacy of this small town make Oakland a true treasure in an industrial region. This weekend, the Borough of Oakland will begin their town-wide celebration of its 100th anniversary with a gala celebration, starting with a family picnic and concluding with a wonderful fireworks display at dusk. I am proud to recognize this wonderful event and community in Northern New Jersey.

The area of land that is now Oakland was originally purchased by a Dutch Company in 1695, although settlers did not arrive in Oakland until a much later time. In 1710, there were only ten families. Much of this was due to the fact that the area was at least a day and a half journey on Native American paths from Hackensack, the closest town. During the 18th century, Oakland evolved into a serene farming and lumbering area with numerous mills on the Ramapo River and local streams.

Today, the residents of Oakland number over 12,000, many of whom are lifelong residents of the once rural area. These residents take tremendous pride in the history of Oakland. The Historical Society has been active in preserving the Van Allen House, a place George Washington stayed in June 1777. With the restoration of the Van Allen Homestead, these residents are setting a wonderful example of local pride, and I commend them for their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Borough of Oakland on its 100th anniversary, and I congratulate the town on creating such a positive, welcoming community for its citizens.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we commemorate World Refugee Day and to bring attention to the desperate circumstances faced by Haitian refugees in South Florida.

Life for very many people in Haiti has unfortunately been one of poverty, violence, and instability.

According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), since early 2000, an increasing number of people have left Haiti due to persecution and violence, often associated with politics. Haitians have applied for asylum in increasing numbers in the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and other countries.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has had an unmatched history of welcoming immigrants and refugees to our shores, which is why our refusal to welcome more Haitian refugees is so especially troubling.

In addition to the desperation, and the psychological and emotional trauma that Haitian refugees already must contend with, Haitian refugees who make it to the United States have long been subject to unfair and unequal treatment by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Hundreds of Haitian refugees with well-founded pending asylum claims are currently being held at Turner Guilford Knight Correctional Facility—which is supposed to be used as a maximum-security prison—and the Krome Avenue Detention Facility, in South Florida.

Since December, the situation for Haitians seeking political asylum in this country has become markedly worse. The INS has been detaining Haitian asylum seekers before and while their appeals are considered, for extremely lengthy periods of time, while many other refugees are routinely paroled into the community.

There is clear and overwhelming evidence which shows that Haitian refugees who come

to our country seeking asylum are not treated the same as other refugee groups.

Federal judges have long criticized the INS for its wholesale violations of the Haitians' fundamental legal rights. A reading of their decisions amply demonstrates that no other group of refugees has been treated with the blatant discrimination suffered by Haitian refugees during the past two decades.

It is extremely divisive, in a diverse community like Miami where different ethnic groups live side-by-side, that similarly situated immigrant groups, like Cuban and Nicaraguan refugees are given such radically different treatment.

Mr. Speaker, I have in my hand testimonials from Haitian detainees who are presently detained in the Turner-Guilford Knight Correctional Facility, and the Krome Avenue Detention Facility, and I ask that these be included in the RECORD.

TRANSLATION OF LETTER

TGK, MARCH 4 2002

We are writing this letter today so we can explain the problems that we have been having since we left Haiti up until now at TGK. We know that we were wrong to enter the United States illegally, but we had to in order to save our lives from the Lavalas members. When you think about it, we were running away and what we found is worse. When we got here, we thought that the Americans would understand us because there are laws that protect victims of abuse and torture. We did not leave our homes because of lack of food, it was political problems that forced us to leave. What hurts us more is that everyone we've spoken to has told us that this is not the way Immigration usually treats asylum seekers. When you look at it everyone from other nations that have come to the United States under the same conditions as us have been released in two or three days. We would like for Immigration to have pity on us because we can no longer take this. Some of us have been here for a period of time ranging from one to three months and still are not able to get released. This causes us a lot of sadness. Some of us have developed high blood pressure, chest pain. Our biggest problem right now is that all of us have some type of rash even if we shower regularly. This might be due to the fact that we get a change of uniform every fifteen days. We only get a very small tube of tooth paste which we have to make sure it lasts the required amount of days, which is not too good for our breaths. We did not commit any crime and we are treated like criminals. We can not even go outside to take a breath of fresh air and get some sun. Sometimes while laying down we think about our country, we can not sleep because our families are still in Haiti where the Lavalas members do whatever they want, setting people on fire, raping people. It does not matter if you are involved in politics or not. People always have to watch what they say, because they are looking for reasons to kill you. Every time they want to kill people they pretend there was a coup. It reminds us of what happened on July 28 where 4 police officers were killed and a cadet. December 17, 2001 they burned many houses in the capital and the provinces. Many people died from gun shots and some were buried alive also. Those people are always preaching violence. In 1995 Rene Preval, Haiti's president at the time came with a slogan stating that people need to do whatever they have to in order to survive. Which incited robbers to do whatever they wanted. In 2001 Aristide came with another slogan stating there should be zero tolerance. This slogan was against peo-

ple who are not Lavalas partisans. Many of us left our schools, universities and our jobs in order for us to flee from the Lavalas group who is holding our country in hostage. We arrived to the United States to seek political asylum so we can have peace, freedom and security but we were thrown in prison. None of the other nations were kept in jail but us Haitians we are suffering. We do not know why. We are neither criminals nor assassins. Why does the INS imprison us. We ask President Bush to say something in our favor especially when March 8 is National Woman's Day. Have pity on us. Release us. Give us our freedom as a gift so we can go and celebrate with all the other women. We thank you in advance Mr. President.

Here at TGK we go through a lot with certain officers and the white detainees. Everything that they do gets blamed on us. We are called "Fuckin Haitians". We are made fun of. Several rumors stated that we were going to get deported. Whenever that happens we become scared because we know how things are in our country.

Another one of our biggest problems is the food that we are given. [The only thing we can eat is] bread twice a day, around six or seven o'clock, we are given supper that contains no salt and most of the time the meat or chicken is spoiled and very bloody. Our health has deteriorated because we do not eat well due to the fact that the food is awful, we do not sleep well. One day one of us fainted since she was feeling so feeble. Most of us have gotten sick. It is not before we have filled out the clinic form seven or eight times that we are able to go there and get medical attention. For us who came on the boat and left Haiti on November 25, 2001 this was a big day for us because we escaped from tribulation. After everything that we endured at sea we thought that we would finally be delivered when we fall into the hands of Americans. But they imprisoned us without letting us go. Since every letter deserves an answer, we are waiting for INS's because we can not go back to Haiti into the Lavalas's hands.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION

I, Sarnia Michel, certify that I am fluent in English and Creole and that I translated the foregoing letter fully and accurately from Creole to English.

SARNIA MICHEL.

STATEMENT OF HAITIAN ASYLUM-SEEKER DETAINED AT KROME

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE—JUNE 7 AND 12, 2002

My name is . My A number is . I am Haitian and I arrived on the December 3rd boat. I've been in detention here at Krome since I arrived.

I tried to get asylum but the judge denied me. My cousin got me a private attorney, but I don't remember his name. He showed up for the hearing I had in February when I was denied. I thought he was going to appeal my case, but at the end of March I learned that he did not appeal and the due date for my appeal had already gone by. I think my cousin tried to find another private attorney to help me, but that one never got back to him either. I don't know any of their names.

I became very depressed as the months went by because I am still here in detention. I have nine children in Haiti who depend on me and it is like they are imprisoned too because I am here in detention and I can't help them at all.

On June 2, 2002, I tried to hang myself. I thought I wanted to die rather than stay here in Krome being humiliated everyday. We're locked up in prison here. I kept thinking of my kids, all my little kids, and how I'm here and locked up and not going anywhere and how I can't do anything for them.

I lost my case, they won't release us—and I don't think they'll ever release us—and I'm not going anywhere. I don't want to spend the rest of my life in prison and I can't help anyone here. So I simply decided to kill myself.

I found this tube in the bathroom that had fabric at the end of it. I made a noose from the fabric. I had the noose around my neck and I had my Bible. I was reading some passages out loud from the Bible and just as I was about to pull the noose to let myself hang and die, this other Haitian detainee, came in and saw me. He jumped and grabbed me and held me and he told me to stop.

Then some guards came and they took me to PHS, the medical place, at Krome. They never took me to the hospital. The doctor said he would treat me cautiously. He said they wanted to take me to a place for people with mental problems. They kept me at PHS for two days—from 7 am the day I tried to hang myself until about 7 pm the following day. The doctor who talked to me gave me some pills to help me sleep because I can never sleep at night.

I told the doctor not to send me to the place for people with mental problems. I said I'm not sick. It's this place that makes me sick. I just think of my kids, and think of how I lost my case and how they want to keep me in prison forever, and that's why I tried to kill myself. But I'm not sick. They want to keep me in PHS but I told them I wanted to be in general population so they let me go back.

I'm back in the dorm now. No one treats me any differently. I didn't get any further counseling after I was in PHS.

I have a headache though that never stops. They won't give me anything for it though, even though I make requests. I had a problem where I was spitting up blood. I wrote a medical request and they came back with a band-aid. I wrote them back and asked what I was going to do with a band-aid when I'm spitting up blood? They didn't respond and didn't help.

That medication to help me sleep is the only one I'm on. A doctor comes at 9 pm each night and gives it to me. I don't know what it's called. It doesn't matter because it doesn't really work anyway. It doesn't help me sleep. At night when I can't sleep I think about all my children in Haiti. I can't get up to walk around, I just sit and think. I don't think I even need this medicine since it's not helping me sleep and I'm not sick.

Krome is a prison. There's not enough recreation—it's only about a half hour each day—and we're just all locked in. Sometimes there's no chair and we have to sit on the floor because it's so crowded. There are about 92 to 94 people in my dorm. I have a regular bunk but there are also cots because there are so many people.

It's not so much that I had problems with the guards or with other detainees, I was just very depressed because I'm still locked up like this. And knowing that I can't help my kids is really hard for me.

I left Haiti because I did have problems in. But I feel like I came here and found bigger problems because they want to keep us in prison forever here. They won't tell us when we can leave.

HAITIAN ASYLUM SEEKER, KROME
WIFE AND CHILD TRANSFERRED TO
PENNSYLVANIA—MAY 7, 2002

My name is . My "A" number is .
I arrived on the boat with my common-law
wife, , and my son, , on December
3, 2001.

I was immediately separated from my family when we arrived. I have been detained at Krome since December. My family was taken to the hotel.

I saw my family maybe three or four times when they were at the hotel. We were allowed to see each other in the visitation area when they came for court.

About a week and a half ago, I called our sponsor. Our sponsor told me my wife and child were transferred to Pennsylvania. No officer or anyone from INS has talked to me about where my family is or that they were transferred. I don't know how to contact them there. I don't know when they were transferred, my sponsor just said that they're now in Pennsylvania.

I can't say if what's happened to my family is fair or not. We're in jail, and we're not in control of our situation, it's up to them [INS] what to do with us. Since we're locked up they can do whatever they want. Only God knows why they sent my family there.

We came to this country to escape political problems in my country. But I was expecting better treatment than this. I just depend on God to help us out of this.

My health is ok, but sometimes I get very depressed because we've been locked up for so long.

I just follow instructions and do what I'm told here so I don't have any problems with the officers here. I'm not arrogant and I don't make problems for anyone.

Krome is really overcrowded. Even with the Haitians who came at the airport getting released, it's still too crowded. There were 92 people in my pod yesterday; one left last night and one left this morning, but there have also been three new people. They have brought cots in for people to sleep on because there aren't enough beds.

HUMAN CLONING

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, scientists stunned the world five years ago when they announced the creation of the world's first clone, a sheep named Dolly. In the short time since, cattle, goats, mice, rabbits and a cat have also been cloned. And efforts are now underway in the United States and elsewhere to create cloned human beings.

The President, the public, religious leaders, and many scientists have all expressed their disapproval for efforts to conduct human cloning, for any reason. And the House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved legislation last year to prohibit all human cloning.

Opposition to human cloning is based upon both ethical and scientific considerations. All clones have been found to suffer from severe abnormalities, premature aging and early death. In addition to these problems, cloning also poses significant health risks to the mother of a clone and to the women from whom the eggs necessary for cloning are harvested.

These dangers have not, however, deterred some from attempting to produce cloned humans.

Scientists—such as Dr. Panos Zavos, who recently testified before the Criminal Justice Subcommittee which I chair—are pursuing cloning as a means of producing live human offspring while others seek to create cloned human embryos in order to destroy them for scientific research with the hopes that such research may potentially yield treatments or cures.

Regardless of the goals of those who are attempting to manufacture human clones, the

fact is that cloning, for whatever purpose, creates human life.

There is no difference between a cloned human embryo created for procreation or for research purposes. Whether or not the newly created embryo is implanted with the intent of reproduction or destroyed for the purpose of research is irrelevant to the fact that a cloned human embryo has been created. Therefore, a prohibition on cloning that is limited only to preventing the implantation of a cloned embryo as some have suggested in effect legalizes human cloning, and raises additional ethical dilemmas.

A ban that permits embryonic clones to be created but forbids them to be implanted in utero legally requires the destruction of human life and criminalizes efforts to preserve and protect such life once created.

Under a partial ban that permits the creation of cloned embryos for research, human embryos would be manufactured in numerous laboratories around the country. Once cloned embryos are available, it would be virtually impossible to monitor or control what is done with them.

Stockpiles of embryonic human clones could be produced, bought and sold. Implantation of cloned embryos—an easy procedure—could take place out of sight, and not even the most elaborate and intrusive regulations and policing could detect or prevent the initiation of a clonal pregnancy.

Scientists agree that once begun, a clonal pregnancy would be virtually impossible to detect or differentiate from a routine pregnancy. And if detected, what could the government do? Would a woman with a clonal pregnancy be forced, or coerced with severe penalties, to abort the child?

Allowing human cloning for research brings us further down the slippery slope that devalues the sanctity of human life.

Not even a year ago, supporters of embryonic stem cell research—which requires the destruction of a living human embryo—found “extremely troubling” the announcement that embryos were being created in order to conduct stem cell research. There was a consensus among opponents and supporters of embryonic stem cell research that embryos should never be created solely and specifically for research. But now that is exactly what proponents of research cloning are demanding.

If we now permit the manufacturing of human embryos for research, where do we draw the line? Do we only allow cloned embryos to grow for 5 days before they are destroyed in the process of extracting their stem cells? What about removing tissue from 5-week-old embryos? Should we consider harvesting the organs from 5-month-old fetuses? What will those who support destructive research next claim is necessary in the name of research?

We must finally draw the line that stops the exploitation of any form of human life.

Cloning, regardless of the intent, reduces human life to a commodity that is created and destroyed for convenience. And despite the claims to the contrary, there is no evidence that cloning can, or ever will, cure diseases. Such statements are purely speculative and pursuing cloning merely diverts limited resources away from more promising research that is already producing promising results.

It is clear that a ban that applies only to “reproductive” cloning is a false ban, which

merely creates an illusion that human cloning has been prohibited. The fact is that all cloning is reproductive cloning, and therefore

human cloning for any reason should be banned.

Dr. Zavos announced his goal of producing a cloned human child by the end of this year. Some of his colleagues claim to already have

created cloned pregnancies. Congress must not act as an accomplice to these sinister acts by failing to enact a ban now, before it is too late.