

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TANO VALLE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Tano Valle, an outstanding member of the Pueblo, Colorado community. Tano has provided the community with quality entertainment and dining for almost sixty years through his restaurant, El Valle. The establishment has become an icon of the Pueblo restaurant community and I am honored to congratulate Tano for his success before this body of Congress, and this nation.

Tano began running the family business in 1937 and provides Pueblo with a terrific dining and entertainment experience. In fact, he now serves the children and grandchildren of his original customers. His menu ranges from Valencia hot dogs to chocolate-stuffed conchas and has hosted some of the biggest acts in the music business, notably Little Richard, Fats Domino, and Gracie Slick. Tano takes immense pride in this family business and I am grateful for his dedication and commitment to excellence in the community.

Mr. Speaker, Tano's dedication to his customers and quality service serves as a model of business excellence in Colorado. He is a well-appreciated and respected member of the Pueblo business community and I am honored to represent him and his family before you today. Thanks for all your hard work Tano, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

CONCERNING RISE IN ANTI— SEMITISM IN EUROPE

SPEECH OF

HON. GIL GUTKNECHT

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2002

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, while I support the general spirit of H. Res. 393, which condemns the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe, I am concerned that the initial findings might lead to misconceptions regarding our German friends. The citations of anti-Semitic incidents in Germany misrepresent the actual frequency of anti-Semitic activity. Germany has very assertively attacked anti-Semitic trends within its borders. For instance, on June 28, 2002, the German Parliament passed, by unanimous vote, a resolution condemning all aspects of anti-Semitism. Additionally, recent statistics gathered by the German Interior Ministry cited an average of 130 anti-Semitic incidents per month in 2001. Incidents have decreased dramatically thus far in 2002. The Interior Ministry reports 127 anti-Semitic acts in the first three months of 2002, an average of 42 incidents per month; a decrease of 68 percent. I en-

courage and commend our German colleagues in their continued attention and efforts against anti-Semitism.

ARMED FORCES TAX FAIRNESS ACT (H.R. 5063)

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2002

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act. This bill makes it easier for military families to sell their homes without tax penalty and ensures that death benefits received by families of deceased military personnel are exempt from taxation.

At this time, we should do everything in our power to better the quality of life for our service men and women who are fighting on our behalf. These tax cuts benefit our military families who have committed so much to protecting our freedoms.

This bill makes it easier for military families, like those at Grant Forks and Minot Air Force bases, to sell their homes without incurring capital gains taxes. Currently, a taxpayer can exclude from taxable income up to \$250,000 of gain realized from the sale of a home. To qualify for the exemption, the taxpayer must have owned and lived in the home for at least two of the five years prior to the sale. For military personnel who are often deployed for long periods of time, this time requirement poses a real hardship.

This bill suspends the five-year requirement for the capital gains exemption for the time that the service member is serving on extended military duty away from their home. This provision could save service members and their families a capital gains tax hit as much as 20% of the value of their homes.

The legislation also exempts from taxes the full \$6,000 death benefit received by families of deceased military personnel and allows for tax-free treatment of future increases in the death gratuity. This change to the tax law furthers our commitment to taking care of military families who lose a service member in the line of fire.

I strongly support this bill and encourage my colleagues to adopt the legislation. We should act together to honor and show our support for the men and women in uniform.

IN HONOR OF JACK CALEGARI DIS- TINGUISHED LEGIONNAIRE OF THE MISSOURI AMERICAN LE- GION

HON. KAREN McCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Ms. McCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Jack Calegari,

an outstanding individual, Veteran, and public servant from the State of Missouri. Mr. Calegari is known for his gentle manner, warm smile, and his tireless efforts for the betterment of our community and region. His dedication and consistent support to various veterans programs and issues have proven to be a valued resource. It is with great pride that we acknowledge the honor bestowed on him as the Distinguished Legionnaire in the Western Region of Missouri from the R.C. Connie Burns American Legion Post 71.

In the tradition of the American Legion, Jack Calegari has demonstrated the patriotic and philanthropic values throughout his military and civilian careers. On January 28, 1952, Mr. Calegari began his service in the United States Army and performed duties as a valuable cryptographer. He was later stationed in Stuttgart, Germany and quickly made the rank of Corporal. Shortly after his return from overseas, he married Tessa and their family soon expanded to include their son, Jack. Mr. Calegari worked as a television repairman and eventually began employment at Bendix Corporation, which would later evolve into Allied Signal and is currently Honeywell's Kansas City Plant integral to the Department of Energy's manufacturing system.

Mr. Jack Calegari has held every office in Post 71, serving as Post Commander for four terms and as Fifth District Commander in 1997-1999. This noble gentleman and his charming wife, Tessa, have donated much of their time at the Kansas City VA Hospital lifting spirits, helping the Women's Auxiliary wrapping Christmas gifts, and taking pictures around the holidays. As a member of the American Legion's Forty/Eight Club, Honor Society of the American Legion, he volunteered to work on their fund raising bingo project. The proceeds from bingo have furnished four rooms on the 11th floor of the Kansas City VA Medical Center so family members have a place to stay with their critically ill veterans. In addition, the Forty-Eight recently donated a new van with a wheelchair lift to the hospital. At Christmas time you can find Jack volunteering as a Christmas Kettle bell ringer for the Post 71 Salvation Army Bell Ringers.

Jack Calegari is active in many local causes and civic endeavors. He has been a mentor for our youth through his work in programs such as Boys State Program Committee that ensures leadership in future generations. He promotes and has worked with the District Oratorical Program to provide high school students with the opportunity to develop oratory skills while learning and understanding our Constitution. Another important youth project he participates in is the J.R.O.T.C. program at Paseo High School of Performing Arts where he is a beloved figure.

For the past ten years he has served as Chairman of the Cadet Patrol Committee for Missouri. The American Legion sponsors Missouri high school students to attend the Missouri State Highway Patrol Academy. Yearly preparations required six months of Jack's

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

time to organize, market and purchase necessities like uniforms and insurance for the cadets. In an effort to provide the cadets with a college opportunity he partnered with Central Missouri University to insure the availability of two college scholarships. The reward for Jack has been the opportunity to work with the cadets and attend graduation ceremonies. He believes that students obtain an understanding of law enforcement while developing practical lifetime skills.

Mr. Calegari is quite active as President of the Permanent Memorial Day Committee and worked on the KC150 Committee to honor Veterans during Kansas City's celebration of its 150th birthday. Most significantly, Jack was instrumental in a national project very dear to me. We both worked for several years in partnership with community stakeholders to restore and rededicate the Liberty Memorial to honor our World War I veterans. He has been a wonderful resource to me and for my staff.

Jack's legacy lives in the work he has so graciously performed, and in the lives of those he has assisted with kindness and understanding. Jack gives his time and energies to make our community a better place to live.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting Jack Calegari the Western Region's District Legionnaire of 2002 from Missouri's Fifth District.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ALOPECIA FAIRNESS EXPANSION ACT

HON. LYNN N. RIVERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Alopecia Fairness Expansion Act of 2002.

Last year I introduced the Alopecia Areata Fairness Act, a bill requiring private insurance plans to cover hairpieces for victims of alopecia, a disease causing partial or total hair loss. Today, I am happy to introduce this companion bill requiring that Federal health programs provide coverage of hairpieces for alopecia victims.

Over 4 million Americans suffer from alopecia, some losing small amounts of hair and some all of it. The onset most often begins in childhood, and it can be psychologically devastating. Children with the disease are often teased in school, and adults frequently have trouble in the workplace. Many people with alopecia must purchase hairpieces to keep their jobs or to avoid ostracism. Yet private and public insurance plans often discriminate between people who suffer from alopecia and those losing hair because of cancer or other diseases, refusing to cover alopecia victims.

My first bill, the Alopecia Areata Fairness Act (H.R. 547), would take a critical step toward changing this by requiring insurance companies to cover a hairpiece as a prosthetic device, provided a doctor prescribes it as a medical necessity.

My new bill, the Alopecia Fairness Expansion Act of 2002, would extend this fairness to victims of alopecia who receive medical care through Federal health care programs and who would not be helped by H.R. 547 alone. It would require that Federal health programs cover hairpieces for people suffering from alopecia when prescribed by a doctor as a med-

ical necessity. These programs include Medicare, Medicaid, TRICARE, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), veterans health care programs, and the Indian Health Service (IHS).

We already recognize the difficulties associated with hair loss and provide prosthetic hairpieces to patients who lose their hair due to cancer treatment. Let's do the same for victims of alopecia. I urge my colleagues to join me as cosponsors of this bill.

MOB OWNS FBI IN YOUNGSTOWN

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the following reflects the truthful and reliable investigation by Congressman JAMES TRAFICANT into the association between the FBI and organized crime (mafia) in Youngstown, Ohio and surrounding areas.

In addition, FBI agent, Anthony Speranza did rape one of my constituents. The matter was adjudicated in the Northern District of Ohio Court of Judge O'Malley, where Speranza admitted to "digital penetration" of a woman who had suffered problems of mental instability, which under Ohio law is felony one rape.

The following facts and sources speak for themselves, making FBI-mob connections in Boston, Massachusetts look like a Rotary meeting.

TRAFICANT INVESTIGATION

JOSEPH NAPLES—JAMES PRATO

1. Fact: Joseph Naples issued a contract to kill one Paul Calautti; Source: FBI Affidavit; Result: Paul Calautti murdered October 11, 1968; Finding: Joseph Naples never brought to trial.

2. Fact: Joseph Naples issued a contract to kill one Joseph DeRose; Source: FBI Affidavit; Result: Joseph DeRose suffered two bullet wounds May 13/14 1980. Joseph DeRose missing-murdered or in protective custody; Finding: Joseph Naples never brought to trial.

3. Fact: Joseph Naples issued a contract to kill one Robert Furey; Source: FBI Affidavit; Result: Robert Furey murdered April 12, 1979; Finding: Joseph Naples never brought to trial.

4. Fact: Joseph Naples and James Prato issued a contract to kill Charles Carrabbi; Source: La Cosa Nostra underboss Angelo Lonardo's testimony under oath during a U.S. Senate hearing on organized crime (1988); Result: Charles Carrabbi missing-presumed murdered; Finding: Joseph Naples and James Prato never brought to trial.

5. Fact: Joseph Naples ordered the burning of a car belonging to a Youngstown City Councilman one Robert Spencer; Source: FBI Affidavit and Robert Spencer's Affidavit presented during a U.S. Senate hearing on organized crime (1984); Result: Robert Spencer's car fire bombed and totally destroyed. (1978/1979); Finding: Joseph Naples never brought to trial.

6. Fact: Joseph Naples ordered the burning of the Desert Inn; Source: FBI Affidavit; Result: Desert Inn bar burned; Finding: Joseph Naples never brought to trial.

7. Fact: Joseph Naples ordered numerous other arsons and bombings; source: FBI Affidavit; Result: Numerous other arsons and

bombings occurred; Finding: Joseph Naples never brought to trial.

8. Fact: Joseph Naples and James Prato had influence with Sheriff Yarash and associates around Sheriff Tablack; Source: FBI Affidavits. Affidavit and Testimony submitted during U.S. Senate hearing on organized crime (1984); Result: Organized crime activities continued; Finding: Joseph Naples and James Prato never brought to trial.

9. Fact: James Prato gave an attempted campaign contribution to Sheriff candidate James Traficant; Source: FBI Affidavit—James Traficant Trial. Testimony submitted during U.S. Senate hearing on Organized Crime (1984); Result: James Traficant acquitted; Finding: James Prato never brought to trial.

10. Fact: James Prato gave an \$80,000 campaign contribution to Sheriff candidate Terrence Sheidel; Source: Michael Terlecky Affidavit. Affidavit of Congressional Lead Staff Investigator Frederick V. Hudach; Result: Terrence Sheidel advertised aggressively during his campaign for Sheriff; Finding: James Prato never brought to trial due to no grand jury being assembled.

11. Fact: Informant who wished to stay anonymous for now revealed the following: (1) On or about 1979 and 1980 Terry Sheidel, a faculty member at Youngstown State University who taught Criminal Justice courses, was running for Mahoning County, Ohio Sheriff at the same time James A. Traficant was seeking the same position; (2) Informant advised Terry Sheidel that he did not have enough money to forge an effective campaign against James A. Traficant and that he (informant) could ask Lenny Strollo for campaign money for him (Sheidel). Terry Sheidel agreed to informant's recommendation to ask Lenny Strollo for campaign money; (3) Informant met with Lenny Strollo and he (Strollo) gave him (informant) \$80,000 in cash for Terry Sheidel's campaign for Mahoning County Sheriff. Strollo also told informant that if Terry Sheidel needed more money he would give him another \$80,000; (4) Informant felt that James A. Traficant had to take the money from whoever gave him the money to keep it off the streets or it would have certainly been used against him to keep him from becoming the Mahoning County, Ohio Sheriff; (5) As far as informant knows, Terry Sheidel never received the second \$80,000 from Lenny Strollo. James A. Traficant won the election.

Source: Michael Terlecky Affidavit. Affidavit of Congressional Lead Staff Investigator, Frederick V. Hudach; Result: Terry Sheidel never investigated by FBI; James Traficant investigated by FBI; Finding: Incident never thoroughly investigated by FBI Agents before bringing James Traficant to trial.

STANLEY PETERSON AS FBI AGENT

1. Fact: Isabella Callard witnessed her husband Joe Ezzo giving money to FBI Agent Stanley Peterson so that he would permit gambling and other illegal activity to continue; Source: Isabella Callard Affidavit; Result: Illegal activity continued; Finding: Stanley Peterson retired from the FBI and subsequently became the Chief of Police of Youngstown, Ohio.

STANLEY PETERSON/FRIEND OF THE MOB/CHIEF OF POLICE

1. Fact: The FBI was informed that a candidate for Mayor of Youngstown, Emanuel Catsoules stated that in 1978 a friend of organized crime wanted Stanley Peterson to be his Chief of Police.

2. Fact: The FBI was informed that a candidate for Mayor of Youngstown, Thomas A. Shipka, was contacted by a friend of the mob who would support his campaign based on

certain conditions, one of which that he would appoint Stanley Peterson as his Chief of Police.

3. Fact: Thomas A. Shipka turned over his information to the FBI and actually brought 13-14 police officers who had first-hand knowledge of gambling joints, prostitution, and other activities that they alleged Mr. Peterson was protecting.

4. Fact: Allegation of Mr. Peterson being involved in an illegal wiretap of a rival mob group was given to the strike force.

5. Fact: The FBI was informed that in 1969, Jack Hunter, a candidate for Mayor of Youngstown, was contacted by an intermediary representing organized crime figures who were well known. They wanted veto powers over Chief of Police in exchange for campaign funds. A high ranking official in the Sheriff's Department was to act as the bagman.

6. Fact: The FBI was informed that in 1971 an intermediary for organized crime contacted Mayor of Youngstown, Jack Hunter, expressing a desire for him to name Stanley Peterson as Chief of Police.

7. Fact: On two separate occasions during the period that Stanley Peterson was Chief of Police of Youngstown, concerned citizens took substantial evidence to the local FBI office implicating Peterson in promoting or protecting organized criminal activity in the City of Youngstown. The Youngstown Police Department took evidence to the FBI identifying over 30 specific sites where organized criminal activity was being permitted to operate within the city.

8. Fact: Evidence was presented to the FBI that Chief of Police, Stanley Peterson was disciplining certain members of the Youngstown Police Department to discourage them from taking action against operations being conducted by LCN figures within the city.

Source: Affidavits and testimony submitted during U.S. Senate hearings on Organized Crime (1984); Result: The FBI said they were aware of the information about Stanley Peterson and that they investigated same, however, the nature of the information lacked specificity; Finding: The evidence against Stanley Peterson was never brought before a Grand Jury.

1. Fact: Joseph Naples and James Prato who were aligned with the Sebastian John LaRocca Mafia Family located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania ran the organized crime faction in the Mahoning County, Ohio area which included: conspiracy to commit murder, murder for hire, aggravated murder, arson, bombings, burglary-criminal trespass, extortion, illegal gambling, numerous illegal campaign contributions, promoted the hiring of certain police officers, "signed off" on key elected officials, sheriffs, prosecutors and mayors.

Source: FBI Affidavits. Testimony, written statements and affidavits submitted to the U.S. Senate hearings on Organized Crime (1984 and 1988).

2. Fact: An informant who wished to stay anonymous for now, revealed the following: (1) Informant was a Youngstown, Ohio police officer during 1977 and 1978; (2) Informant during 1977 and 1978 worked for six months on Phillip Richley's campaign for Mayor of Youngstown, Ohio. Informant felt that his campaign work for Philip Richley would bring him a patrolman to white shirt and tie promotion with the Youngstown, Ohio Police Department. After Phillip Richley won the election and became the Mayor of Youngstown, Ohio, retired FBI Agent Stanley Peterson became the Youngstown, Ohio Chief of Police. Informant became angry when he was made aware that he was not going to get his expected promotion. Informant then contacted Lenny Strollo, who at the time along with Vic Calautti and Joey Naples reported

to James Prato. Immediately after informant told Strollo of what happened to him, Strollo made a telephone call. Immediately following Strollo's telephone call, Strollo told informant he was promoted to a white shirt and tie promotion. Informant did not hear Strollo's telephone conversation, however, he strongly feels that Strollo talked to Youngstown, Ohio Chief of Police, Stanley Peterson, the retired FBI Agent; (3) Informant revealed that when Stanley Peterson was an FBI Agent he was often seen at Standard Motors, 901 Andrews Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio where mafia affiliated often met. Informant said that FBI Agent Stanley Peterson "had a key to the place." Informant also stated that Stanley Peterson was Joey Naples' man.

Source: Affidavit of Congressional Lead Staff Investigator, Frederick V. Hudach; Result: The evidence against Stanley Peterson never brought before a Grand Jury; Finding: Stanley Peterson, friend of the mob.

LENINE STROLLO/FRANK FASLINE—TELEPHONE CONVERSATION, NOVEMBER 23, 1996

Fact: Lenine Strollo told Frank Fasline during a November 23, 1996 telephone conversation: that FBI Agent Robert Kroner was on Joseph Naples payroll; that FBI Agent Robert Kroner said in essence that he has lots of friends, that they can do whatever they want to do in this valley as long as they cooperate with him; that the FBI got away with illegal activity in the Mahoning Valley and the FBI was planning to get away with illegal activity again; that the FBI got involved in illegal activity and that the FBI wanted to make him (Strollo) a scapegoat again.

Source: FBI transcript of telephone wiretap titled Government Exhibit #4; Result: Lenine Strollo recanted above statements. Lenine Strollo in a plea bargain kept over \$10 million in assets; Finding: Lenine Strollo traded the truth in exchange for his assets.

ASSOCIATE OF LENINE STROLLO PROFFER

Fact: (1) He caught Youngstown Police following him in Campbell and he heard that the FBI was across the road, in the mill with binoculars. Paulie told him not to worry about it because they had an "inside guy" in FBI. (Page 4); (2) Lenny Strollo told him about Biondillo running stags in the City of Youngstown and they wondered how he was able to do it. Lenny Strollo told him he heard that money went from Biondillo through Vic Calautti to the Randall Wellington campaign and that Biondillo had to have the okay from Wellington to be able to hold stags inside the city of Youngstown. (Page 45). He said that he heard that Biondillo paid \$25,000 to Vic Calautti to donate to Wellington's campaign. (Page 49); (3) Lenny Strollo and he thought that the guys at the Center (Youngstown United Music) were doing business with FBI Agent Kroner as they were operating without any pressure and therefore must have had the FBI's okay. Lenny or Danny Strollo told him that Biondillo was talking to and dealing with the FBI. (Page 58); (4) Lenny Strollo told him that an agent told someone who told Strollo that FBI Agent Kroner and those guys were on the Naples payroll for years. He heard from Strollo that someone went to Kroner's father to see if he could control Kroner. That person found out that his father had no control over what he did. The reason for this was to see if Lenny Strollo could have control over Kroner like Naples did.

Source: The Proffer of a Lenine Strollo Associate given at the Euclid City Jail, Euclid, Ohio on 5-28, 6-4, 6-9, 6-30, 9-1, 11-13, 1998 in the presence of Assistant U.S. Attorneys, FBI Special Agents and a Special Agent of the IRS; Result: Information within Proffer suppressed; Finding: Obstruction of Justice-

Misprision by Assistant U.S. Attorneys, Special Agent FBI and Special Agent IRS.

Fact: Informant, who wished to stay anonymous because of fear for himself and family revealed the following: during the early fall of 1997, Lenny Strollo, reputed leader of Youngstown, Ohio Organized Crime, told me at his now closed restaurant, at the northwest corner of Calla Road near Market Street, North Lima, Ohio that Joey Naples had told him the following: (a) he (Joey Naples) owned the FBI; and (b) he (Joey Naples) made payoffs to the FBI through Special Agent Lynch.

Source: Affidavit of Congressional Lead Staff Investigator Frederick V. Hudach; Result: FBI cover-up; Finding: FBI Agents on Joey Naples' payroll.

JUDICIAL CORRUPTION

Fact: Five separate crimes reported to the Youngstown office of the FBI and the Department of Justice, and three separate crimes reported to the Youngstown office of the FBI and IRS who used their authority in aid of and in furtherance to conceal the reported crimes by refusing to investigate and prosecute members of the bench and bar in both Mahoning and Trumbull Counties, Ohio; Source: Robert A. Frank Affidavits; Result: FBI and Office of the U.S. Attorney refused to totally investigate and prosecute; Finding: FBI, IRS and office of U.S. Attorney has carried out and made effective a pattern of selective prosecution and in some cases became an accessory after the fact.

Fact: An Investigative Chronology Exposing Extortion within the Trumbull County Common Pleas Court System of four Defendant's families for buyouts from prison was presented to both the FBI Offices in Youngstown and Cleveland and to the IRS Office in Youngstown; Source: Affidavit of Congressional Lead Staff Investigator, Frederick V. Hudach. Affidavit of Carl Stere; Result: No action taken by the United States Department of Justice; Finding: Selective Prosecution. The FBI/IRS/U.S. Attorneys will not prosecute their criminal friends for political reasons.

FBI refused to help a citizen of Trumbull County, Ohio who was being extorted by members of the Aryan Brotherhood. If the extortion money was not paid the citizen's son would be killed in prison; Source: Affidavit of Congressional Lead Staff Investigator, Frederick V. Hudach; Result: Troopers of the Ohio State Highway Patrol saved the life of the son of the citizen and arrested members of the Aryan Brotherhood; Finding: Members of the FBI were deliberately indifferent to their jurisdictional responsibility.

Fact: Two Investigative Summaries exposing police perjury and a bogus autopsy which occurred in Trumbull County, Ohio was submitted to Members of the FBI and the Office of Professional Responsibility; Source: Correspondence between Congressional Lead Staff Investigator Frederick V. Hudach and members of the FBI and member of Office of Professional Responsibility; Result: Assistant U.S. Attorney decided they did not have jurisdiction; Finding: Assistant U.S. Attorney practiced selective prosecution.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANCISCO GARCIA

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great honor to stand before you today and praise

the accomplishments of Mr. Francisco Garcia. Mr. Garcia is the Founder and CEO of Integrated Information Technology Corporation, and through his company he has provided employment opportunities to 360 Coloradans in his eight offices. Francisco Garcia lives his business life by the motto: "Treat others with the same level of respect, professionalism and fairness that you wish to be treated", and I am proud to bring forth his accomplishments before this body of Congress.

Francisco has two degrees, a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from the University of Texas-San Antonio, and a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Ohio University in Athens. He also served our country in the United States Air Force as a Communications Officer where he achieved the rank of captain. Later in life, Mr. Garcia established his own company to provide important satellite, communications, network and installation services to the state of Colorado. His good fortune and quality business ethics have earned him many awards, including the SBA Region VIII Subcontractor of the Year in 2002, the Denver Post Minority-Owned Business of the Year in 2001, the Family Business Award in 2001, and also the SBA's National Minority Small Business Person of the Year in 1996.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the accomplishments of this pillar of the Denver Business community. Francisco Garcia has been a great asset to the State of Colorado and to the world of communications. Francisco, I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

JULY 4TH ADDRESS BY MAYOR
ROBERT BLOMQUIST OF
OLMSTED FALLS, OH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to share a 4th of July speech given by Robert Blomquist, Mayor of Olmsted Falls. Mayor Blomquist eloquently spoke of the values and principles on which our country was founded that we must remember and cherish on Independence Day.

Welcome to the City of Olmsted Falls 4th of July festivities. Five weeks ago we gathered here to honor and remember the members of our countries' armed forces whom paid with their lives for the ideas behind the event and document that we celebrate today, the anniversary of the signing, and adoption, by the continental congress, or the declaration of independence.

Today is just not about the birth of a nation. Today is a day in which we pay respect and tribute to the men that pulled together in one document, the most comprehensive and complete ordered thoughts about the nature of man, the nature of government, and how human beings can exist to pursue life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The careful thinking that is the fabric of our great nation. A statement of how we can be free as individuals, but still coexist in a structured and orderly society.

When I think about the history of our country, I am so grateful that I am a citizen of the United States, that my children and I are the beneficiaries of the ideals of the best human nature.

Think with me for a moment.

This land is the product of a unique confluence of the evolution of technology, economics, politics, and the nature of man. In the 17th century it became technically and economically possible for European powers to claim and settle lands beyond their boundaries. Politically Spain, France and Great Britain competed to exploit their claims in the new world and expand their influence.

The original 13 colonies were settled between 1607 and 1732, by Great Britain. It took 125 years and began 170 years before the birth of our nation. People first came as agents of the king to exploit the natural resources, and later came to escape the king and a situation where men were not recognized as being created equal, but where it was believed that men were given rights by station of birth.

At the time this land was being settled. The ideas of what is the true natural state of man. What is freedom and liberty? What is the role of government? What are the divine rights of the king as a sovereign? Should a king truly govern without the consent of his subject people? These ideas were being explored by such philosophers as Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean Jacques Rousseau. At the time the colonies were flourishing.

These ideas flourished with the American colonies. They took root and grew in the minds of both the intellectual and the layman as natural state of the human desire to be free and independent itself.

We know that this led to the events of our American Revolution. As we openly rebelled against an unjust king we still tried to organize ourselves and our government to better reflect mans desires.

The declaration of independence when you read it was nothing more than an indictment and redress of grievances in the literal sense. It was an announcement to the world of the reasoning behind the rebellion. When Congress adopted the declaration of July 4, 1776, England virtually ignored it. It received a 6 line mention in the London Morning Post, just below a theater notice. But on these shores it galvanized a people, to expend treasure and lives to fight for the ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness that we still enjoy today.

The Declaration of Independence was the product of the best thinking on social and political philosophy of the time. It became the blueprint of our constitution. And continues to this day to inspire men to pledge their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

In the year that has just passed, between today, and last year's celebration we again find it necessary to defend the foundation of our freedoms enjoyed as Americans.

At the time Jefferson wrote it and 56 men signed it and were declared treasonous, and sentenced to death, no one knew what would happen as a result of the Declaration of Independence. We have the advantage of 226 years of history to evaluate and appreciate this event.

Shortly before his death in 1826, Thomas Jefferson also had the advantage of the passage of time to reflect. The following is a passage of a letter written by Jefferson, as he had to decline an invitation to Washington City to celebrate Independence Day because of ill health. Expressing his regrets that he could not join with the small group of worthy gentlemen who created and signed the declaration, he said, "I should have indeed delighted to gather with an exchanged congratulations with those who joined with us to have elected to not submit to the sword, and to enjoyed with our fellow citizens after a half century of prosperity to continue of the choice we made. To assume

the blessings of self government that restores the right of the exercise of reason and freedom of opinion. All eyes are open to the rights of man. For ourselves, let the annual return of this day forever refresh our recollections of these rights and our devotion to them."

A TRIBUTE TO REBEKAH REVELS
MISS NORTH CAROLINA 2002

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rebekah Revels who was recently crowned Miss North Carolina 2002. A native of St. Pauls in my home county of Robeson and a teacher at my alma mater, Lumberton Senior High School, Rebekah's recent accomplishment is a source of immense pride throughout our county and all of southeastern North Carolina.

The American historian, James Truslow Adams, once said, "Seek out that particular mental attribute which makes you feel most deeply and vitally alive, along with which comes the inner voice which says, 'This is the real me,' and when you have found that attitude, follow it." With dedication and determination, Rebekah has followed her heart and mind and become Miss North Carolina 2002.

Rebakah is a woman of dedication who does not rest on her laurels. Having held the past titles of Junior Miss Lumbee, Miss Lumbee, Miss University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Miss St. Pauls and Miss Fayetteville, Rebekah has kept the fire and energy alive to reach her dream of Miss North Carolina. She is a woman of dedication who provides a positive example for all to follow.

Rebakah is a very determined young woman. She set the goal of becoming Miss North Carolina and worked tirelessly to achieve this high distinction. She now will use this same drive and determination to inform people all across North Carolina of the devastating effects of Alzheimer's disease.

Rebakah, thank you for your dedication and your determination. We wish you continued success, and may God's strength, peace and joy be with you as you begin your reign as Miss North Carolina 2002 and as you compete for the title of Miss America.

TRIBUTE TO THE REGISTERS OF
WILLS AND CLERKS OF OR-
PHANS' COURT

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Registers of Wills & Clerks of Orphans' Court (ROW/OC), comprising Pennsylvania's 67 counties, for their 75th Anniversary as a state association. This organization is a collective group of elected professionals who have come together to learn from one another and to work as one body. By doing this, they have succeeded in creating one set of standards, procedures, rules, and statutes that are used statewide.

First organized in 1927, the ROW/OC Association of Pennsylvania, has strived to promote more effective government by concentrating on the priorities of information dissemination, education, and legislation. To best do this, they conduct an annual statewide conference for their members, which is an effective forum for education and the sharing of information. The result of this hard work, is the creation of a critical link between Pennsylvania's various departments, agencies, and the public who depend on these offices for a wide variety of purposes.

I would like to once again congratulate the Register of Wills & Clerks of Orphans' Court Association of Pennsylvania on their 75th Anniversary as a state association and thank them for their hard work and dedication.

COMMENDING JASON HIBNER

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary conduct a national audio essay contest entitled the Voice of Democracy. 85,000 secondary school students participated this year on the theme, Reaching Out to America's Future. Jason Hibner, a young man from my congressional district, took second place with his entry, and was awarded the \$16,000 Charles Kuralt Memorial Scholarship. Jason has just completed his junior year at Vandalia-Butler High School. I am pleased to insert his remarks into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

2001-2002 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY
SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

"REACHING OUT TO AMERICA'S FUTURE"

The train ride must have been nearly unbearable. The biting cold, so unlike the warmth of the Hawaiian harbor, likely did nothing to dull the pain of his recent losses as the iron machine chugged along the parallel tracks. The telegram giving word of his father's death had come only a week prior, it would be difficult to comfort his sister and mother with the tragedy of his brother's death also fresh in their minds. The date was December 7, 1941. The title, "a date that shall live in infamy" would come later as would the declaration of war. But for my great uncle Arthur the day would mark the grimmest day of his life. He should have been there, at Pearl Harbor, as all his friends and fellow crewmen were when the Zeroes began dropping their deadly cargo. Such cruel irony, only his personal tragedies had prevented the loss of his own life. The thoughts of friends dying to the West and his family grieving to the East must have made the long ride nearly unbearable.

In December of '41, the world changed for every American young and old. The threat to our liberty could not be questioned; it could only be answered with such extra ordinary force and purpose. However, the war was won, not by the adults who earlier questioned the next generation's patriotism, but by the young men and women who were pulled from their homes and thrown into battle for all those who would come after. Today we call them "The Greatest Generation," once they were called the future of America.

Within my own short lifetime, I can remember another period when everyone felt it was time to create some more patriotism

and concern for our nation. That time was roughly from the moments during my childhood as coherent thoughts began to fill my mind to a date that shall always occupy a front position in my memory: September 11, 2001. Now, no one acts concerned about the need to teach the cost of freedom. We just want to go back to that time, before America once again lost her innocence as children watched from their school room desks both the toppling of the World Trade Center Towers and the disappearance of hope from their teachers' faces.

The young people of America's future will not have the luxury of being gently educated by the wiser members who have experienced Vietnam and Desert Storm. Instead, they have been ripped from their shelter of indifference into the ultimate struggle of good versus evil, a united nation against a radical terror network. The leaders of America have been handed a burden of monstrous proportions for the terrorists' instrument of evil has also become an image demanding retaliation for the American people. Today, the concern of reaching out to America's future has become a universal thread, weaving together all the citizens of this great nation.

America's future is unclear. But it has always been so from first cries of revolution, to the separation of the Union, to the grinding of war on Normandy Beach. Our future citizens of this country may live with daily threats of violence and the fearful anxiety of what will come next. But as Benjamin Franklin once declared, "They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety * * *" The American way will continue as long as there are Americans to sustain it.

Before, I could only imagine the thoughts of my great-uncle during that long ride home. Now we, America's youth, are riding the same journey across the fruited plains and under the spacious skies of America the Beautiful. The parallel tracks of hardened metal resemble the tracks of change through the history of our nation. Often there will be treacherous turns and steep declines, but America always levels herself and turns to the morning dawn. My generation is the future of America and we will fight for liberty and freedom just as all those before us.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TED ALBERS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I take this opportunity to pay respect to the passing of Ted Albers, who recently passed away at the age of 78. Ted was the former Mesa College president-Administrator who helped reform higher education in Western Colorado to meet vocational and academic ambitions. Ted is credited as an innovative thinker who not only transformed Mesa College from a community college into an accredited four year institution but also preserved the two-year aspects of the institution so that Mesa could continue offering associate degrees and vocational certification.

Ted was born in the small Northwestern Colorado town of Maybell and became a teacher and principal at Rio Blanco High School in Meeker in 1949. He went on to become an administrator for the University of Colorado extension division in Grand Junction and served as an assistant superintendent of

School District 51. In 1969, he returned to receive higher education at Denver Community College and then returned to Mesa in 1970.

Ted's leadership guided Mesa College on a course geared toward providing young adults with a quality and affordable education aimed to meet as many needs as possible in western Colorado. Ted was almost perfectly suited to the job of reshaping Mesa because he was first and foremost an educator in the highest sense of the word.

Ted is survived by his wife, Maxine, who served as a Mesa County Commissioner for 15 years and his two children, T.L. and Rhonda. Throughout his life Ted remained a strong supporter of the Mesa State College and its role in the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that we remember Ted Albers. He was a remarkable man whose innovative teaching techniques have educated thousands of people and whose good deeds deserve the recognition of this body of Congress and this nation. The impact of Ted's life on those with whom he has come in contact is a testament to this great man. I would like to express my condolences to the family of Ted Albers.

IN RECOGNITION OF FATHER
BYRON COLLINS OF THE GOLDEN
ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ORDINA-
TION INTO THE PRIESTHOOD

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 21, 2002, a gentleman who has been a friend to many of us in this chamber over the last quarter century, Father T. Byron Collins, S.J., celebrated the golden anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood. He entered the Jesuit Order in September, 1940.

Through fifty years of ordained priesthood, Father Collins has left a lasting impression on the lives of many devout Catholics. Virtually every weekend, Father Collins travels over 150 miles round trip to say Mass at Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church in Centreville on Maryland's Eastern Shore. During the week, he is an active presence on the campus of Georgetown University where he not only has played a major role in shaping the physical presence of that institution, but has also enhanced the understanding of the Catholic faith among the students. Now in his eighth decade of life, Father Collins is still seen rowing on the Chesapeake Bay and bicycling in the vicinity of the Georgetown campus. This is a man who is living life to the fullest and continuing in many ways to serve his faith.

I know that Father Collins is immensely proud—in his very humble way—of having been able to play a significant role in the life of Georgetown University, the Nation's oldest Catholic university. Likewise, I know that many of us in this House have come to admire and respect this man of the cloth. He has been a friend who has been with us in times of joy and of tribulation. He is to be commended for the fifty years of service he has provided since his ordination.

THE CRISIS OF THE UNINSURED

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. RANGEL Mr. Speaker, today America faces a crisis that affects more than 40 million people. This is the number of Americans who are currently without health insurance. Additionally, if we account for the number of people who have insurance but are underinsured, then we arrive at a far more disturbing number. Let's face it. The health care system as we know it is falling far short of its goals.

During a time in which the economy is lagging and health care prices are rising, companies are having to make cutbacks and consumers are having to choose between health coverage and meeting their daily needs. For example, when faced with the choice of paying for a vehicle needed to get to work each day or for expensive health care coverage, millions opt to forgo their health in favor of a much needed paycheck.

On the other hand as business profits have been decreasing substantially, employers can no longer afford to offer employees lower prices for health insurance. This means that businesses feel the pressure to pass the health care bill on to employees. Since 74% of the U.S. population is covered by private health care insurers, mostly provided by the workplace, this means that most consumers will feel the squeeze of skyrocketing health care premiums.

Why is it so important that we insure all Americans? Lack of health care drastically affects access to proper medical treatment. Since the uninsured are less likely to have regular health care treatment, their level of health is lower on average compared to the insured. People without health insurance tend to allow medical problems to go untreated because they cannot afford doctor visits or recommended medications. More than a third of uninsured adults say they have not filled a drug prescription in the past year due to cost. More than a third did not get a medical test or treatment that had been recommended.

The uninsured do not normally have access to preventative care, which may mean the difference between catching cancer in its early, treatable stages as opposed to a stage in which the cancer is incurable. For example, uninsured women diagnosed with breast cancer are more likely to die from it because they have a much greater chance of being diagnosed with late-stage cancer.

We must address the problem of the uninsured because this health care crisis also affects the decisions of health care providers. Under the current system of competitive managed care, physicians are often forced to choose between giving proper treatment to the uninsured (risking uncompensated care) and not providing adequate treatment (risking the life of the patient). To alleviate this problem, the uninsured are often required to pay for services "up front." This requirement causes uninsured individuals to either wait until they can afford treatment or charge their medical bills to credit cards, potentially building debt that may take years to pay.

Another problem evident in the current health care system is that minorities disproportionately represent the uninsured. Roughly a

third of Hispanic and Native Americans are uninsured. About 20% of African Americans and Asians are uninsured compared to 11% of whites.

The poor and near-poor are also much more likely to be without health insurance. If it were not for Medicaid, many more of the poor would be uninsured and would have reduced access to medical care. Yet Medicaid does not cover a significant number of the near-poor. Since nearly 60% of the uninsured at or below the poverty level have at least one worker in the family, many near-poor individuals earn too much to qualify for Medicaid. It is evident that we must work to narrow the gaps of health care coverage disparities along racial and socioeconomic lines.

We can no longer sit back and hope that the problems within the current health care system correct themselves. It is imperative that we rise together in a bipartisan effort to address the health care crisis of the uninsured. We must find a solution before this crisis grows to affect additional millions of Americans.

INDIA AND IRAQ: "STRATEGIC
PARTNERS" STRENGTHEN
TRADE TIES WITH OIL DEAL

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, India calls itself "the world's largest democracy" and it claims it is a partner in the fight against terrorism, yet it just signed an agreement to strengthen its trade ties with one of the nation's major sponsors of terrorism, Iraq. According to the British Broadcasting Company (BBC), Amir Muhammad Rasheed, the Iraqi Oil Minister, called India a "strategic partner."

Under the agreement, India will provide medicine, wheat, rice, railway equipment, and turbines for electrical generators to Iraq. In addition, India, Iraq, and Algeria are in the final stages of an agreement to drill oil in the southern part of Iraq. Mr. Rasheed's counterpart, Indian Oil Minister Ram Naik, said that India opposes the sanctions on Iraq.

On May 18, 1999, the Indian Express reported that Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes organized and led a meeting with the Ambassadors from Iraq, Red China, Cuba, Russia, Serbia, and Libya to discuss setting up a security alliance "to stop the U.S." This demonstrates that many in India do not view America as an ally, but instead, view us as an enemy. Apparently, these people are even willing to support America's enemies.

The time has come for the United States to recognize the truth about India. India has a long way to go before it can be considered an American ally. It is a supporter of terrorist regimes and a practitioner of terrorism itself. It has already been placed on the State Department's watch list of violators of religious freedom. Now it is time to impose appropriate sanctions on India. We should immediately cut off all American aid to India, and we should declare our support for the self-determination movements in South Asia, such as those in Kashmir, in Punjab, Khalistan, and in Nagalim, among others. If India is going to support terrorism around the world, it is not worthy of the

support of the hard-working, freedom-loving people of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the BBC report on the India-Iraq deal into the RECORD at this time for the information of my colleagues and the American people.

IRAQ AND INDIA TIES WARMED BY OIL DEALS

Iraq and India have signed an agreement to boost trade ties, especially in the oil sector.

Indian Oil Minister Ram Naik told a press conference that the Indian oil firm Oil Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) would soon open offices in Baghdad.

Mr. Naik added, after meeting his Iraqi counterpart Amir Muhammed Rasheed, that "work was progressing" on an ONGC oil concession in southern Iraq.

Iraq has awarded Indian companies a number of contracts under the United Nations "oil-for food" programme, in return for India's diplomatic support.

The programme allows Iraq to bypass sanctions imposed for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait and use oil revenues to buy food and humanitarian goods.

The U.S. has classified Iraq as a member of the "axis of evil" while it has strengthened relations with India to prosecute the war in Afghanistan.

STRATEGIC PARTNER

After meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Saturday, Mr. Naik said that India opposed the sanctions on Iraq, and called for them to be ended immediately.

Mr. Rasheed described India as a "strategic partner".

"We have entered new projects in railways, oil and gas, health and industry in addition to technical co-operation and this will give a boost to the economic relations of the two countries, which in consequence will be reflected on the volume of trade exchange," Mr. Rasheed said.

Under the agreement, India is to supply Iraq with medicine, wheat, rice railway equipment and turbines for electricity generations.

Mr. Rasheed said trade between Baghdad and New Delhi under an "oil-for-food" deal with the UN had reached \$1.1 bn.

EXPANDING OIL INTERESTS

Iraq, India and Algeria are "in the final state" of a deal to start exploring and drilling the Tuba oil field between Zubair and Rumaila in the south of the country.

"It is a consortium between Indian companies and the Algerian Sonatrach Company, and we hope to realize it by the end of summer," Mr. Rasheed was quoted as saying in the ruling Baath party's Al-Thawra newspaper.

The field was being developed by Iraq until the 1991 Gulf War, when storage facilities were destroyed.

ONGC is awaiting approval from its board to invest approximately \$63m in Iraq.

India, which imports more than two-thirds of its crude oil requirement, has been seeking foreign sources as domestic output matures.

Last month it took over a concession in Sudan from Canadian oil company Talisman.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHIL-
DREN'S ACCESS TO ORAL
HEALTH ACT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, tooth decay is the most prevalent chronic childhood disease;

it is five times more common than asthma, and seven times more common than hay fever. Without proper treatment, dental caries (tooth decay) can result in serious infection, pain, and swelling, interfering with the ability to eat or drink, and, in severe cases, sleep or school performance.

Unfortunately, low-income children suffer disproportionately from oral disease. While dental care is covered for children in Medicaid, and most states opt to cover it for children in Children's Health Insurance Programs (CHIP), merely covering services does not guarantee children will have access to them. Low participation by providers, program barriers, and parent's lack of knowledge about the importance of early dental care and prevention have greatly contributed to the disproportionate number of low-income children who suffer from tooth decay.

Such problems can be overcome. Recent demonstration projects have shown that increased attention to the issue coupled with expanded federal support can go a long way toward ensuring low-income children have access to quality oral health care. My home state of Michigan is an example of where change has begun to take hold.

Michigan tried a new approach to dental coverage when they implemented a dental benefit for their SCHIP program. Not surprisingly, by paying dentists market rates, simplifying billing procedures, and requiring that plans prohibit participating dentists from discriminating against SCHIP patients, access and utilization soared to levels never seen under Medicaid. Between 70–90% of dentists participated in the plan networks and nearly three-quarters of children received a dental visit in a year. In comparison, in the Medicaid program where similar changes were not undertaken, only 27% of dentists participated and barely a quarter of Medicaid children had a dental visit. The State of Michigan has had the common sense to expand this effort to Medicaid through a demonstration project and the results have been similar.

All children, however, regardless of where they get their health insurance, should be able to count on quality dental care. That is why Congressman Upton and I are introducing the "Children's Access to Oral Health Act," a bill that will provide incentives and new flexibility to states to encourage them to improve and expand the provision of dental care to low-income children.

The Children's Access to Oral Health Act establishes improved dental care for low-income children as a priority within the Department of Health and Human Services by establishing a dental health initiative led by a newly created Chief Dental Officer for Medicaid and CHIP. The legislation provides grant funding for states to undertake outreach and improve coordination in the dental care provided through these programs, as well as to improve provider reimbursement rates to secure adequate access to services for these children. The legislation also provides grants to improve the delivery of pediatric dental services through community health centers, public health departments, and the Indian Health Service to address problems in areas facing a shortage of dental professionals.

Finally, the legislation ensures that dental care is a part of the core benefits package of the SCHIP program and gives states the flexibility to provide dental coverage (or supple-

mental additional benefits or cost sharing) for children in families who meet SCHIP income requirements but who have private insurance which is inadequate in these areas. For every child who lacks health insurance coverage, there are 2.6 children who do not have dental coverage. This problem is concentrated among low-income families but currently states' hands are tied and they cannot supplement inadequate private insurance with SCHIP coverage.

I believe the Children's Access to Oral Health Act will go a long way in terms of improving dental services for children and in reducing the dental caries among low-income children. Michigan, like a number of other states, has made significant progress in this area, but much more can be done. The gains made in the Michigan SCHIP program should be expanded to children who have coverage through Medicaid. States that have not focused as much attention on this problem can be encouraged to do so. This bill will provide incentives, resources, and new flexibility for states to tackle this problem. I look forward to working with my colleague Mr. Upton as well as our friends in the dental community, like Dr. Dan Briskie, in moving this legislation forward.

VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY
PROGRAM COMPETITION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary conduct the Voice of Democracy audio-essay scholarship competition designed to give high school students the opportunity to voice their opinion on their civic responsibility to our country.

The program is now in its 55th year and requires high school student entrants to write and record a three-to-five-minute essay on an announced patriotic theme. This year over 85,000 secondary school students participated in this contest competing for the 58 national scholarships. The contest theme was "Reaching Out to America's Future."

I am pleased to announce that Elizabeth Buckner from the 10th District of Virginia has been named a national winner in the 2002 Voice of Democracy Program and the recipient of the \$1,000 Roy Chandler VFW Post 762 and Ladies Auxiliary Award. Elizabeth, a senior at Clarke County High School, is the daughter of Larry Buckner and Michele Worthing. She was sponsored by VFW Post 9760 and its Ladies Auxiliary in Berryville, Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share Elizabeth's scholarship-winning essay with our colleagues:

2001-2002 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST—REACHING OUT, TO AMERICA'S FUTURE

(By Elizabeth Buckner)

Imagine if you will, the year 2020. The intense winter sun is fading on the city of New York and a light dusting of snow glistens on the sidewalk. As you hurry home from work, you stop inside a small bakery where the warmth and the aroma of holiday cookies surrounds you. Initially the sound of jumbled words is all that you hear, but soon you

can distinguish between the different voices and various languages that have entranced you. First Italian, then Arabic and Chinese. Although, you cannot understand the words, the emotions of excitement and joy are universal. And as you slowly make your way home in this city, which is alive with energy and hope, you read the newspaper and think about all the events, some memorable, some already forgotten, that have transpired today in this great nation.

Although this episode may seem ordinary and insignificant; in actuality, it is a phenomenon, made only more significant because it is common and widespread in this country. This episode is a vision of America's future, where prosperity, freedom and diversity flourish.

Today, the United States is a country of unparalleled prosperity and security. Our nation celebrates pluralism in, culture, language, religion and custom. It is the land of freedom of expression, freedom of belief, freedom of information, and freedom of opportunity.

Each day, however, we are faced with a difficult question. How can we, both as individuals and as a society, reach out to this vision of the future, and how can we guarantee that the country our posterity will come to know is ever greater than the one we have experienced?

The answer to this question, the only one that can be given, is through the present. The future can only ever be built on the events of the past and the present. So the question becomes, not how can we, but how are we already reaching out to America's future?

The ways in which we are reaching out to America's future are:

1. By exercising the rights we are guaranteed in the Constitution
2. By educating our children and instilling them with the values that we cherish
3. By defending our country and our way of life against outside attacks
4. By embracing our freedoms and our diversity

First, we as individuals, are exercising the rights that are guaranteed to us in the Constitution. For example, on November 6th, millions of U.S. citizens went to the polls to take part directly in our government and its processes. By voting, and helping to elect our representatives at both the state and federal levels, we are helping to influence the future of legislature and our country.

Secondly, we as a society realize that our children are our future. Everyday we strive to provide them not only with an economically sound, but also a healthy and happy future. In order to achieve this goal, we guarantee our children a public education, we help provide health care, and we instill our values of freedom, patriotism and equality in them.

Third, currently our country is fighting a war for our future. We are fighting for our freedom, and defending our country against the ineffable attack that our nation experienced on September 11th. We are fighting in order to ensure that our children and our grandchildren will know the peace and the prosperity that we have enjoyed for so long.

Lastly, we are currently embracing the diversity in our own culture. We are witnesses of this diversity. We worship in the churches, temples, and mosques; we speak and hear the different languages, and we observe the contrasting beliefs and opinions presented by the media. By acknowledging our differences, and by protecting our civil liberties today, we are ensuring that in the future, the citizens of our country will know and will accept such diversity and will experience and enjoy such freedom.

In conclusion, the only way that we can truly reach out to America's future is to affirm our principles of freedom and equality

each and every day. The truth is that, while we are caught up in our busy lives and absorbed by our personal concerns, the eternal rhythm of time will persist. And we will not even notice. But all too soon, we will open our eyes and realize that the vision of tomorrow has faded and has become the gift of today. Only then, when America's future has become its past, on those wintry nights when we are hurrying home, enjoying all the benefits of American society, will we truly be able to appreciate the significance of today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WAYNE
THOMPSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment and pay tribute to the life, legacy, and memory of Wayne Douglas Thompson. Wayne departed us on June 2, 2002 in his Monte Vista home, and as we mourn his loss, I would like to take the opportunity to honor Wayne—a man of great character and conduct.

Wayne was a native of Colorado, born and raised by Douglas and Agnes Thompson in Monte Vista. He graduated from Monte Vista High School in 1952, and entered Adams State College, graduating with honors in 1956. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and served our country courageously through three tours in South Vietnam and also in the Middle East, defending the freedoms and liberties we all hold dear. Wayne served with integrity, and today we honor him as a soldier and a patriot.

After 21 years of military service, Wayne retired from the Marine Corps and returned home to accept a position as the Executive Director of the Colorado Potato Administration Committee. His leadership and guidance have inspired his peers and co-workers—Wayne leads by example and has always taken time to pass along his wisdom to the youth of his community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly honor Wayne before this body of Congress and this nation. He is survived by his two daughters Dawn and Kali, his three grandchildren Nicholas, Melanie, and Devin, and his beloved wife Maryann. Thank you, Wayne, for your many years of service and countless contributions to our society. Although we all mourn the loss of Wayne Thompson, we recognize that he has left a piece of himself with each of those who were lucky enough to have known him.

INTERNATIONAL TAX SIMPLIFICATION, FAIRNESS, AND COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2002

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill, the "International Tax Simplification, Fairness, and Competitiveness Act of 2002." I have worked for many years with my dear colleague, AMO HOUGHTON, to help bring

sensible and low-cost simplifications and reforms to the U.S. international tax rules. I look forward to working with him this year and in future years on these important issues.

The bill contains a menu of proposals unified by a common theme: The way we tax the income of U.S. companies doing business abroad should reflect the economic realities of doing business abroad and should facilitate the efficient allocation of resources. Guided by that principle, the bill provides a list of possible amendments to the U.S. international tax regime that will simplify the reporting burden, update the rules to reflect the new realities of globalization, enhance the competitiveness of U.S. businesses and their workers, and promote exports. While I do not anticipate that all of these provisions would be enacted at once, and certainly the fiscal impact of any provision must be considered as it progresses through the legislative process including by considering appropriate offsets, I look forward to working to get provisions of the bill enacted into law.

In the context of trade policy I have spoken for some time about the need to address head-on the changing nature of trade which has followed from the phenomenon of economic globalization. That need exists in the international tax sphere, as well. The nature of business and commerce has changed dramatically in the past fifty years and continues to change rapidly. Today, companies regularly take advantage of the gains in efficiency that may come from locating strategically in multiple points around the globe. Not only can strategic location around the globe make U.S. companies more competitive, it also can increase demand for U.S. exports, since U.S. companies operating overseas are very likely to purchase U.S. goods and services. In the trade context, I have worked to establish basic rules of international competition, including a floor of core labor standards, to ensure that there is a level playing field for U.S. companies and workers. Just as we need relentless innovation in our trade policy, we must ensure that our tax policy is keeping up with the realities of domestic and international business.

Additionally, as international business transactions have increased dramatically, it is increasingly necessary to be sure that the rules meet two challenges: they must be updated to prevent new types of abusive transactions with little or no purpose other than the avoidance of U.S. taxes, and at the same time they should not have the effect of deterring or severely burdening transactions undertaken for legitimate and, from the point of view of American competitiveness, desirable, economic reasons.

Toward that end, and as someone who has spent a lot of time working to simplify and improve the U.S. international tax regime, I want to put forth a proposition—although there is a need to discuss the competitive implications of the U.S. international tax rules and there is a need for simplification, the issue of corporate inversions does not provide an appropriate vehicle for that discussion.

Corporate inversions are not truly about the complexities of the U.S. international tax rules; they are driven by tax avoidance, plain and simple.

Whether a corporation is headquartered in Germany, France, the Netherlands, Japan, or the United States, it has a tax-based incentive to do an inversion into a tax haven. Coming

from any OECD country with a responsible tax authority, an inversion into a tax haven will allow a company to avoid the relevant passive income rules, embodied in subpart F of the U.S. Tax Code, but in existence in one form or another throughout the OECD.

Also, once a corporation from any OECD country has undertaken an inversion, the corporation can reap further tax benefits through earnings stripping transactions that avoid domestic taxes on domestic-source income.

So, the corporate inversion phenomenon is not about territorial systems versus the U.S. modified worldwide system of taxation. An inversion results in a tax regime more favorable than either of these systems. Any attempt to turn the inversion phenomenon into an indictment of the U.S. system is therefore misguided. Inversions are about tax havens versus developed taxing jurisdictions like those in OECD countries. The only "business reason" driving an inversion—reflected in disclosure filings accompanying each inversion reassuring shareholders that the transaction will not impact business operations—is tax avoidance.

I will therefore resist any effort to draw a false link between the inversion phenomenon and the need for reform of the U.S. international tax rules. I believe that consideration of legislation to close off inversions is important and should be considered on its own merits, similarly, legislation to reform and simplify the U.S. international tax rules to improve the competitiveness of U.S. companies is important and should be considered on its own merits. Attempts to link the two issues together will only add unnecessary difficulty and will jeopardize the types of needed changes included in the bill introduced today.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
VOORHEESVILLE VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to recognize with gratitude the 100th Anniversary of the Voorheesville Volunteer Fire Department, which is located in my congressional district in Albany County, New York.

For more than a century, members of the Voorheesville Volunteer Fire Department have put their lives on the line—day in and day out—to ensure the safety and well being of the citizens of the Village of Voorheesville and its surrounding communities.

Founded April 1, 1902, the Voorheesville Fire Department enjoys a rich tradition of heroism and service. Never have these most admirable qualities been so honorably displayed than by the heroic rescue efforts of firefighters from across New York State following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Through their actions, Mr. Speaker, we understand true patriotism.

The heroic efforts of our 'First Responders' are finally being given the recognition they have always deserved.

I proudly extend my highest regard to the Department's President, Richard Berger, to its Fire Chief, Michael Wiesmaier, and to all of

the volunteer firefighters and their families. They have my best wishes for continued safe and successful service.

FBI's MILLIE PARSONS RETIRES—
AT AGE 88 AFTER NEARLY 63
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to call to the attention of our colleagues the remarkable career of a dedicated federal employee who just retired from the Federal Bureau of Investigation after nearly 63 years of service to her country.

When Mrs. Mildred C. Parsons—known as “Millie”—ended her career on June 28 at age 88, she was the longest continuously serving employee in the FBI. What’s even more extraordinary, Millie Parsons never took a day of sick leave in her 62 years and nine months of work at the FBI.

She was 25 years old in September 1939—Franklin D. Roosevelt was president of the United States and World War II was beginning—when she began her career at the FBI as a junior clerk-typist in the chief clerk’s office at FBI headquarters.

The next year she transferred to the Washington Field Office, where, over the course of her career, Mrs. Parsons served as the secretary to 30 agents in charge of that office, the second largest division in the FBI. She proudly displayed all the portraits of her bosses lining a corridor leading to her office.

Van A. Harp, assistant director in charge of the FBI’s Washington Field Office, recently commented that “Millie, who embodies all the positive attributes of Fidelity, Bravery and Integrity, has certainly contributed to the fine reputation of the FBI. Her career and dedication have been a hallmark for those who follow in her path. Millie will be missed by all of her associates.”

A native of Frederick, Maryland, and a widow since 1967, Mrs. Parsons has lived in the Maryland suburbs of the nation’s capital during her career with the FBI. She says she plans to relax and travel—now that she has some leisure time.

Mr. Speaker, Millie Parsons stands as an outstanding role model for all in public service to emulate. We wish her the best in her retirement.

**INTRODUCTION OF LIVER DISEASE
RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT**

HON. DAN MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. DAN MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague from Massachusetts, Mr. LYNCH, to introduce legislation to improve treatment options for millions of Americans living with liver disease. The “Liver Research Enhancement Act” organizes and

streamlines the efforts by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to combat liver disease by creating a comprehensive vision of how to fight this epidemic in our country. This bill establishes a National Center on Liver Research, which will work with a Liver Disease Advisory Board within the National Institutes of Health to construct a Liver Disease Research Action Plan. The national plan will help coordinate research currently administered by 14 different institutes and centers at the NIH. By prioritizing research goals, the NIH will be able to maximize its liver research.

The need for liver research and an effective funding projection is critical to our Nation’s health. At present, it is estimated that twenty-five million people in the United States suffer from a liver or liver-related disease. Every year as many as fifteen thousand children are hospitalized by their illness. The medical care for individuals with liver disease each year costs over 5.5 billion dollars annually. Over four million Americans are afflicted with Hepatitis C alone, a disease claiming ten thousand lives each year and with no vaccine available. Without the proper public health measures, that number is expected to rise to thirty thousand a year. At this time, the majority of cases of Hepatitis C have no effective treatments. In addition, a newly discovered liver disease related to obesity, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) could touch one in every four adults in the United States. At the same time, the waiting list for liver transplants stretches over 17,500 patients, of which only 5,100 receive livers and 1,300 die hoping for a transplant. The time has come to greatly improve liver research and preserve the public health for future generations.

The Center on Liver Research, to be based in the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, will provide the much-needed leadership to ensure that the liver research opportunities are increased and that promising medical leads do not go unexplored. The Liver Disease Advisory Board will suggest future funding priorities and recognize underperformance as well as achievement in the field. The Center’s first mission will be to make an action plan to deal with research to prevent, cure and treat liver disease in America. By establishing this unifying bond for the 14 different institutes involved in liver research, this bill will make liver research more effective and responsive to the needs of the liver community.

I have enclosed letters from the American Liver Foundation and the Hepatitis Foundation International endorsing this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

AMERICAN LIVER FOUNDATION,
June 18, 2002.

HON. DAN MILLER,
*Cannon House Office Bldg.,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MILLER: The purpose of this letter is to express, on behalf of the American Liver Foundation (ALF), our strong support and enthusiasm for your leadership to pursue enactment of the Liver Research Enhancement Act.

As you know, approximately 10% of the population, or over 25,000,000 Americans, are afflicted with liver, bile duct or gallbladder disease and over 4 million Americans have been infected with hepatitis C. The CDC has projected that deaths due to hepatitis C will

more than triple by the year 2010 to more than 30,000 deaths per year unless there are appropriate research and public health interventions. Furthermore, due to limited research, current treatments for hepatitis C are effective in fewer than 50 percent of the cases. As such, hepatitis C is a leading cause for liver transplants in the United State, but the availability of liver transplants, as you know, falls far short of the need. These are numerous liver diseases other than hepatitis C such as primary biliary cirrhosis affecting 15 out of every 100,000 Americans with 95% of the infected population being women. Finally, there is an emerging obesity-related chronic liver disease, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), that may affect as many as 1 in every 4 adults over the age of 18.

Mr. Miller, your legislation to create a National Center on Liver Disease Research at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) will provide the dedicated scientific leadership necessary to create an action plan for liver disease research, and new authorities necessary to help assure that the scientific opportunities identified by the Liver Disease Research Action Plan are adequately funded. The coordination and focus this Center will provide for liver disease research will help increase our ability to find better treatments and cures for the millions of Americans inflicted with liver diseases.

We thank you for your tireless leadership on this issue and for all of your persistence in working to better the health of the nation. We stand ready to support the passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

PAUL D. BERK, MD,
*Chairman of the
Board of Directors,
ALAN P. BROWNSTEIN,
MPH,
President and CEO.*

HEPATITIS FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL,
June 26, 2002.

Hon. Dan Miller,
Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MILLER: Hepatitis Foundation International (HFI) would like to express our support for the Liver Research Enhancement Act.

As you know, approximately 10% of the nation’s population suffer from liver, bile duct, or gallbladder disease and over 4 million Americans have been infected with Hepatitis C. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has projected that deaths due to Hepatitis C will more than triple by the year 2010 to more than 30,000 deaths per year unless there are appropriate research and public health interventions.

Mr. Miller, your legislation to create a National Center on Liver Disease Research at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) will provide the leadership necessary to create an action plan for liver disease research. The coordination and focus of this Center will help increase our ability to find better treatments and cures for the millions of Americans suffering with liver diseases.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and for your persistence in working to better the health of all Americans. We offer our support for the passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

THELMA KING THIEL,
Chairwoman and CEO.

H.R. 4481, THE AIRPORT STREAMLINING APPROVAL PROCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2002

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my opposition to H.R. 4481, the Airport Streamlining Approval Process Act, which encourages the construction of airport capacity expansion projects at congested airports like Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

LAX is the third largest airport in the United States, serving approximately 65 million air passengers per year. Nevertheless, the operator of LAX had proposed a massive expansion plan that could have increased the airports' capacity to as many as 120 million air passengers per year. A diverse coalition of over 80 cities and several grassroots organizations, known as the Coalition for a Truly Regional Airport Plan, organized to oppose LAX expansion and support a regional approach to Southern California's air transportation needs.

The proposed expansion of LAX would have had a severe impact upon the surrounding communities. According to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Report released by LAX expansion proponents, increased traffic in and out of LAX would have added 1,592 tons of pollutants per year to Los Angeles' air; an additional 7,150 persons would have been exposed to noise levels above 65 decibels; and inadequate noise mitigation efforts would have forced residents to remain indoors or move. Because of these negative impacts, many residents of the surrounding communities expressed strong opposition to LAX expansion.

Furthermore, the proposed expansion of LAX would have interfered with the development of a regional solution to Southern California's air transportation needs. While the communities surrounding LAX have been forced to endure a disproportionate share of the region's air traffic, other communities are eager for the economic benefits of development at their local airports. The expansion of LAX would have made it extremely difficult for these communities to attract service to their local airports. Residents and businesses in these communities would have had no alternative other than to commute to an expanded LAX for their air transportation needs, resulting in an increase in traffic congestion on the streets surrounding LAX. Clearly, the proposed expansion of LAX would not have ended air transportation-related gridlock in the Southern California region.

On April 18, 2002, I sent a letter to Chairman MICA and Congressman LIPINSKI, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Aviation Subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, regarding the effect of airport streamlining legislation on the Southern California region. This letter, which was signed by three other Southern California Representatives, explained that we would oppose any legislation that would prevent the State of California and its regional and local governments from enacting a regional solution to our future aviation needs, including limiting or prohibiting the proposed expansion of LAX.

Airport expansion should not be carried out over the objections of local communities. It

would be both unfair and unwise for the Federal government to disregard local concerns or override the authority of state and local officials to plan local airport development.

I strongly oppose H.R. 4481, the Airport Streamlining Approval Process Act. Airport expansion is a local issue. It should not be encouraged by the Federal government.

H.R. 5094, GOOD GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING ACT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, our confidence in the financial information reported by U.S. corporations was shaken by the disclosures of accounting irregularities discovered on the books of some of the largest companies on the New York Stock Exchange. Congress is taking important steps to improve the financial reporting requirements for every public corporation. The public should have similar confidence in the financial information it hears about our own Federal Government. This is not an obscure subject—literally trillions of dollars are at stake.

Two laws—The Chief Financial Officers Act passed in 1990, and the Government Management Reform Act passed in 1994—require Federal executive branch agencies to prepare audited financial statements, in accordance with undefined “applicable standards.” Who would set these standards and make sure they were fairly applied to all government agencies? In October 1990, the Secretary of the Treasury, Director of OMB and Comptroller General of the Government Accounting Office jointly agreed to create and sponsor the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board, better known as “FASAB,” to play a major role in establishing the rules that assess the government's efficiency and effectiveness. FASAB is entirely different from the Financial Accounting Standards Board, or “FASB,” that governs private sector standards.

In carrying out its mission, the government's FASAB has published 18 Federal Government accounting standards and four accounting interpretations, covering topics as diverse as direct student lending, social insurance, and deferred maintenance of federal property. In addition, FASAB writes technical bulletins and releases, and makes a public reading room available to any citizen who wants more information on Federal Government accounting standards.

On January 11, Treasury, OMB, and GAO published a Memorandum of Understanding, or MOU, that announced a restructuring of FASAB. This MOU is designed to enhance the independence of FASAB and increase public involvement in the setting standards process. It became effective June 30, 2002. I am introducing legislation that simply takes the President's MOU and puts it into law. This bill, called the “Good Government Accounting Act,” has already gained bipartisan support. It establishes FASAB as an independent entity, operating under the terms of the structure that has just been put into force.

Like the private sector, the Federal Government can benefit from using unbiased, equitable accounting standards with disclosures

that increase public understanding of how our government works. FASAB should exist by law—not just by agreement between Treasury, OMB, and GAO.

This bill, H.R. 5094, makes a major step forward to ensure that public accounting standards that govern trillions of dollars in taxpayer funds are well spent and reported accurately to the American people.

TEXTILE AND APPAREL RECOGNITION ACT (TARA)

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join with my colleague, Representative JOHN SPRATT, along with 40 other original cosponsors to introduce the “Textile and Apparel Recognition Act” (TARA). This legislation recognizes the significant contributions the U.S. textile industry continues to make to our economy while also acknowledging that this industry is confronting a terrible crisis and deserves our attention.

Though it still employs nearly half a million Americans, the textile industry is in a state of crisis. Since 1994, a staggering 675,000 jobs have been lost in textiles and apparel. Last year alone the industry lost nearly 150,000 jobs and 2002 appears to be more of the same. These negative effects are not only being felt by the many thousands of textile workers who have lost their jobs, but by our local communities and states as well. As tax revenues have fallen as a result of plant closings, funding for schools, water infrastructure improvements, and basic services, such as garbage collection, have also been negatively affected.

Closed foreign markets, which persist despite trade policies that have opened our own markets; continuing large-scale customs fraud and transshipment; and currency devaluation in several textile-producing nations along with a strong dollar have all contributed to a prolonged period of industry-wide downsizing and plant closings. Those of us representing U.S. textile and apparel producers have seen thousands and thousands of jobs in our districts disappear.

We remain encouraged by the attention this administration has given to the crisis confronting this important sector of our economy and believe that this resolution offers an opportunity to show our support for continued efforts in this regard. I encourage my colleagues to join with us in this effort by cosponsoring this resolution, and I thank the Speaker for yielding me this time.

TRIBUTE TO QUEEN CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Queen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church on the occasion of their celebration of a new sanctuary after 136

years. It was my hope to join the congregation at the dedication and a daylong jubilee celebration this coming Saturday.

Queen Chapel A.M.E. Church is not only the oldest church on Hilton Head Island, but also the oldest A.M.E. church in the State of South Carolina. Queen Chapel represents the rich Gullah-Geechee cultural history and religious heritage that is characteristic of the coastal Sea Islands.

Queen Chapel A.M.E. Church was founded when Minister Richard Harvey Cain—who served in this body for four years—Reverend James A. Johnson, and Reverend James Handy arrived on Hilton Head Island in the area called Cherry Hill. As they waited for a violent storm to pass over, they decided to have church services with prayer and singing under a large, oak tree. This was to be an historic event because it was where the African Methodist Episcopal religion began in the state of South Carolina.

The property where Queen Chapel now sits was purchased from W.D. Brown in 1886, and the first church was built on September 11, 1892. The pastor of Queen Chapel during that era was Reverend R.C. Williams, and the presiding elder was Reverend P.W. Jefferson. Some of the Church's early members include Abraham Grant; Ben Singleton, Sr.; Jake Green; Ceasar Johnson; Paul Edwards; Ed Green; Perry Ward; Sarah Grant; Joe Jones; Ben Jones; Harry Burke; John Burke; John Henry Perry; Nellie Perry; Fannie Burke; Christina Williams; Martha Goff; Sarah Singleton; Mary Cannick; Maria Green; Blind Joe Ellis; Backus Johnson; Julia Reed; Lula Jones; Chamberlin Robinson; Mae Bell Simmons; and Ida Singleton. Later members were Charlie Singleton; Willie Singleton; Mae Bell Aiken; Beulah Kellerson; Raymond Perry; James Grant, Sr.; Viola Murray; Marion Aiken, Sr.; William Kellerson; William Brown, Sr.; Abraham Johnson; John Patterson; and many others whose relatives are still members of the congregation today.

The present church was built in 1954, with the Reverend S.C. Washington serving as pastor, the Reverend F.M. Reid as Bishop, and the Reverend J.C. James as presiding elder. The officers credited with building the

new church were James Grant, Sr.; Solomon Grant, Sr.; John Patterson; Marion Aiken, Sr.; William Kellerson; Abraham Johnson; and Leander Cannick, Sr., just to name a few.

The new facilities of this prominent church on Hilton Head Island will not only serve the Queen Chapel congregation, but will also serve the entire community with considerations for amenities such as day care and after school tutoring.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me today in honoring Queen Chapel A.M.E. Church which is raising another sanctuary after 136 years on the same hallowed grounds. I wish the congregation and surrounding community Good Luck and God-speed on this special occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE 19TH ANNUAL
FREMONT FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 19th Annual Fremont Festival of the Arts sponsored by the Fremont Chamber of Commerce.

The two-day Festival, to be held on July 27 and 28, 2002, is expected to attract over 450,000 attendees and has become a model of success for the modern festival. This single event provides some \$400,000 in contributions to non-profits for the betterment of communities in Fremont, California.

Over 800 artists, 40 culinary selections and 20 musical groups will be featured at the Festival. Three thousand volunteers give willingly of their time to contribute to the Festival's success.

It takes generous and concerned individuals, such as the volunteers, to reach out and make a difference, ensuring promise and opportunity for this and future generations. It also takes the support of business sponsors and patrons to ensure the success of the Festival.

The Festival typifies the spirit of community service, which is alive and thriving in Fremont.

I am proud to salute the efforts of this year's Festival Chairman, David M. O'Hara and Fremont Chamber of Commerce CEO Cindy Bonilor, the organizers, the volunteers, the sponsors and the patrons of the Fremont Festival of the Arts for their generous and inspiring efforts to ensure continued success.

UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, ENGINEERING, AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2002

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a co-sponsor and in support of this important bill.

Despite predictions for an increase in jobs requiring technical skills over the next decade, the number of students graduating with degrees in the sciences has decreased during the last decade.

This pattern has had serious ramifications for our nation's economic growth.

The H1-B visa increase we passed two years ago was a reflection of the failure of our educational system to produce students with strong proficiency in math, science and engineering . . . this bill addresses this failure.

The Tech Talent Bill is innovative legislation that will help reverse current trends by rewarding colleges and universities for taking steps to increase the numbers of science and engineering majors.

A relatively small investment made through the grants authorized in this bill will seed U.S. companies with the employees they need to remain competitive in a global marketplace.

By providing these financial incentives, we will not only be strengthening our own workforce but also lessening our dependence on foreign experts who may be here on H1-B visas.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and look forward to its swift passage.