

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN SUPPORT OF PEACE ON THE
28TH BLACK ANNIVERSARY OF
THE TURKISH INVASION OF CY-
PRUS

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, 28 years ago this week, Turkish troops illegally invaded the nation of Cyprus seizing control of one third of the island and forcing tens of thousands of Greek Cypriots out of their homes. In 1983, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus established itself through a declaration of independence and to this day is recognized only by the Turkish government. Today, 35,000 Turkish soldiers are stationed on the island occupying the lands of Greek Cypriots and guarding the 113-mile, fenced border. Many consider this border to be one of the most heavily militarized regions in the world.

This atrocious affront to the sovereignty of Cyprus has received generous attention from the international community and, in particular, the United Nations, however, it has resulted in little action taken by Turkey. I am heartened by this year's talks between the President of Cyprus, Glafcos Clerides, and the Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktash, as they indicate a strong interest to find a peaceful and final solution to this decades old conflict.

Potential membership in the European Union has been the strongest catalyst for peace between the two parties since the initial invasion of Cyprus. Both Cyprus and Turkey are vying for inclusion in the E.U., but because of certain requirements for membership, their requests may not be granted unless they first focus their attention to the forcibly divided nation. With this new motive for a solution, I have increased hope that this ancient part of our world will once again see harmony within its borders.

The Greek and Turkish Cypriot leadership have a long, tough road ahead of them for a diplomatic solution, but they have come a long way. With continued support from the U.S., the U.N., and now the E.U., I believe that freedom and peace are attainable for the people of Cyprus.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RUBY MARTINEZ

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, today I stand before you to celebrate the life and mourn the loss of Ruby Martinez. Mrs. Martinez, a former Councilwoman and Mayor of Boone, Colorado, selflessly committed years towards the devel-

opment and betterment of her community. After a long battle with cancer, she passed away on June 30, 2002. As we mourn her loss, I would like to pay tribute to her life before this body of Congress and this Nation.

At the early age of fourteen, Ruby Martinez began striving for success when she began working the fields to raise money so that she could attend Catholic school. Although her graduation led her to a job in the larger city of Colorado Springs, she selflessly returned to Boone to care for her ailing grandmother who had suffered from a stroke. Her civil involvement began through calling local officials with the intent of organizing local volunteer programs to help the less fortunate and actively address the town's issues and concerns.

Once her tenure as Mayor commenced, she created several agencies to improve the lives of her constituents with the Housing and Urban Development agency, which repaired homes for owners who could not find the means to do so themselves. She actively served as a board member of the Pueblo Community Health Board, the Pueblo Chemical Depot Reuse Commission and Chemical Demilitarization Authority, the Sheriff's Advisory Board, and she was the founding member of the Boone-Avondale citizens Alliance.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to pay tribute to the memory of an exemplary citizen in the State of Colorado. Ruby Martinez was a vibrant woman who achieved much success and was a beacon of inspiration to her entire community. I join her family and a grateful community today in the mourning of her loss.

WHOSE DEFINITION OF "FAIRNESS"?

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend to his colleagues an editorial from the July 12, 2002, edition of the Omaha World-Herald entitled "'Fairness' to be wary of."

As the editorial stresses, the International Criminal Court (ICC) will place U.S. policy-makers and military personnel in a precarious position whereby practically any random non-governmental organization (NGO) could bring esoteric charges against them. Indeed, the editorial highlights the story of a Croatian advocacy group which has brought charges against former President Clinton for his support for military actions in Croatia. These charges, which were presented in the special tribunal on the Balkans, were not presented due to any specific infraction but because the advocacy group believes that all sides of the issue should be reviewed for the sake of "evenhanded justice."

Mr. Speaker, the ICC is likely to consume vast resources on similar baseless cases and charges rather than focusing on the gross infractions of basic international rules of engagement. It is appropriate for this body and for the Administration to adamantly oppose U.S. participation in the new court.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, July 12, 2002]

"FAIRNESS" TO BE WARY OF

Critics have scoffed at the insistence by the Bush administration and Congress that U.S. military personnel abroad be protected from indictment by international tribunals. Such courts, the critics claim, are intended only for prosecution of major war criminals. The indictment of U.S. policy-makers and soldiers, they say, isn't very likely.

Recent events, however, have shown that U.S. concerns are justified. The Washington Times reported this week that a special tribunal investigating war crimes in the Balkans is examining whether charges are warranted against former President Bill Clinton and his aides for U.S. support of a Croatian military offensive in 1995.

An advocacy group in Croatia sparked the court's action. The activists told the tribunal that if it indicts a former Croatian general accused of slaughtering Serbian civilians during that campaign, it should also indict American officials in the interests of what it called "evenhanded justice."

This isn't the first time U.S. officials have come under scrutiny by that court. Previously, the prosecutor for the tribunal had investigated whether NATO had violated international law during its 1999 bombing campaign in Yugoslavia. The prosecutor filed no indictments, saying she wouldn't have been able to collect sufficient evidence to bring charges against high-level officials.

In light of those facts, the Bush administration has been amply justified in refusing to seek congressional approval for a new entity, the International Criminal Court, which began operation last week and seeks global jurisdiction. (To keep United Nations peacekeeping on track in the Balkans, the Bush administration compromised this week on the immunity question, while still refusing to endorse the court. The compromise should provide sufficient de facto protection for troops.)

Supporters of the new court say it is a vehicle for trying only the most brutal of international war criminals. But such claims lack credibility when a similar international court is dutifully conducting an investigation—out of "fairness"—of possible war crimes by a former U.S. president.

On balance, we think it's a good idea to have specially appointed courts consider war-crimes matters for individual military conflicts. But the International Criminal Court has been granted too much authority, and the Balkans tribunal has shown a troubling lack of proportion by taking seriously calls for indictments against high U.S. officials.

American leaders are right to be wary about the potential for abuse.

• 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.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1854) making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September– 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Slaughter-Dicks-Horn-Johnson-Morella Amendment to increase funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The arts and humanities are important both socially and economically to our nation as a whole.

Studies have shown students benefit from exposure to both the arts and humanities. They gain not only a better cultural appreciation but are able to translate their positive experiences into skills that are essential for their academic future and their future in the American workforce.

Arts and humanities funding are increasingly allocated to state agencies for grant programs that reach out to underprivileged and smaller suburban and rural areas that do not have the benefits of big city art programs. In correlation, seventy-nine percent of businesses believe it is important to have an active cultural community in the locale in which they operate. Businesses in Delaware work hand in hand with the arts and humanities communities. This partnership makes my state a stronger community than it otherwise would be.

I have witnessed in Delaware firsthand how rewarding arts and humanities programs can be to our nation's youth. For example, the Possum Point Players in Georgetown, Delaware, is funded through the NEA's Challenge America Program. This organization provides positive alternatives for youth in Sussex County high schools through the creation of theater programs for rural and low-income students. Many of these students would not have the opportunity to participate in such programs without the Challenge America Program. These students have a better chance to increase their SAT scores, develop increased self-confidence, and are more likely to create multiple solutions to problems and work collaboratively with one another.

Furthermore, the Delaware Humanities Forum, through NEH funding, has played an essential role in bringing humanities to all corners of the state with programs available for schools, businesses, and other community groups. Each year the Humanities Forum presents an annual living history event bringing education and entertainment together. Past events have centered around the old west and the gilded age in American history.

It is important for us to remember, the collective benefits gained by not only our districts but also by the nation as a whole and that is why I rise today in strong support of increased funding for the NEA and the NEH.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE BENNETT

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to express gratitude and pay tribute to one of Colorado's outstanding public servants, Mike Bennett, who is stepping down this month as Chief of Staff to U.S. Senator WAYNE ALLARD. Mike is a true professional who has performed his duties with the highest degree of excellence. His leadership in Washington on behalf of Colorado will be greatly missed but always appreciated.

Over the past 11 years, Mike Bennett has served our country with distinction, carrying out both his personal and professional life with dignity, respect and dedication. Beginning first as then-Congressman ALLARD's District Director, Mike later served as Senator ALLARD's Administrative Assistant until his promotion to Chief of Staff in 1999.

Prior to his public service, Mike Bennett was President of First National Bank of Brighton, Colorado, and the Valley Bank of Lyons. Mike served as a member of the Board of Directors of Valley Bank of Brighton from 1984 to 1996. His banking career from 1977 to 1990 also included positions at the Farmers State Bank of Yuma, the Byers State Bank, and Valley Bank of Frederick.

A constituent of the Fourth Congressional District in Colorado, Mike Bennett not only makes his community proud but also his state and country. He has taken the responsibilities and standards of his job to a higher level, and I applaud him now before the House. On behalf of the citizens of Colorado, I ask the House to join me in extending congratulations to Mike Bennett for his commendable accomplishments.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DEAN
DOWSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to take this opportunity to recognize Dean Dowson of Lakewood Colorado, for his accomplishments and achievements towards the betterment of his community. Dean has contributed greatly to the city of Lakewood, Colorado and is well known as a pillar of the Lakewood business community.

In May of 2002 Dean was awarded the "Minuteman Award" from the American International Automobile Dealers Association (AIADA), for outstanding political and legislative involvement. He has actively involved himself with Members of Congress, and has pioneered many efforts of the AIADA. Dean has exhibited an unparalleled commitment to his work and has become a pivotal part of the AIADA, aiding an organization that uplifts and reinforces the economy. He has truly excelled in many facets of his job, and continues to improve.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to stand this evening and honor Dean Dowson before this body of Congress and this nation. Thank you Dean for every minute of time you selflessly spent building a strong foundation in our community. Congratulations on your award and good luck in your future endeavors!

TRIBUTE TO ALEX REZA

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a good friend and an outstanding educator, Alex Reza. In May 2002, Alex retired after 34 years of service with the Los Angeles Unified School System.

Alex was one of the founders of the Mexican-American Studies curriculum at San Fernando High School where he has taught since 1968. He has a unique ability to clearly communicate history and make it relevant and understandable generation after generation. Known for his infectious passion when it comes to civil rights, Alex has made it a priority to ensure that his students learned about civil rights and labor leaders such as Cesar Chavez, Martin Luther King, and Walter Reuther.

A charismatic leader, Alex always manages to enlist numerous faculty, students and community members in his many initiatives and projects. His accomplishments and successes are legion. He helped found the Cesar Chavez March, co-sponsored the San Fernando High School chapter of MEChA (a national Chicano organization), and volunteered in the fund raising campaign for the Cesar Chavez Memorial. In recognition of his service to his community, Alex received the first Cesar Chavez Service Award in the City of San Fernando.

Alex's integrity, enthusiasm and strong consensus building abilities have made him a role model to many and an inspiration to many more. Over the years I have witnessed firsthand Alex's genuine concern for youth and their surrounding communities. I have met many of his former students whose interest in history, government and politics were inspired by his enthusiasm. In fact, three of those students now serve on my staff.

Lawyers, doctors, activists and leaders, including the President of the Los Angeles City Council, proudly count themselves as alumni of Alex Reza's classroom. Alex has created a living legacy through his students and in turn, he has earned the respect of his colleagues and his community.

Over the years, even though I never had the privilege of being a student in Alex's class, I've grown to trust his advice and counsel. In 2000, I designated him as my elector in the Presidential primary. He represented me well, and served with enthusiasm and professionalism.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting my good friend, Alex Reza, for his extraordinary service to the hundreds of students he has inspired in his distinguished career.

IN MEMORY OF ADM ROBERT L.J.
LONG

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of ADM Robert L.J. Long of Annapolis, MD.

ADM Long was born in Kansas City, MO, on May 29, 1920, son of Trigg Allen and Margaret (Franklin) Long. He attended Paseo High School, Kansas City Junior College, and Washington University in St. Louis, MO.

ADM Long was a 1943 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. He served his country in the Pacific during World War II on the battleship *Colorado*. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V", for meritorious service as Plotting Room Officer during operations against enemy Japanese forces in the Philippine Islands and the Ryukyu Islands.

ADM Long went on to serve the U.S. Navy in many other capacities including commander of the Atlantic Fleet Submarine Force and Vice Chief of Naval Operations in 1972, and commander in chief of all U.S. military forces in the Pacific from 1979 until his retirement in 1983.

After his retirement, ADM Long became a board member of Northrop Grumman Corporation and Hudson Industries. He was also principal executive of President Ronald Reagan's fact-finding committee that investigated the 1983 bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut.

Mr. Speaker, ADM Long was a valuable leader in the U.S. Navy. He was a role model for younger people interested in military service. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his wife, Sara, and his three sons, Charles Allen, William Trigg, and Robert Helms Long.

NATIVE AMERICAN SACRED
LANDS ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, this body, the United States House of Representatives, is housed in a testament to freedom, a symbol of government, a monument of national historical and cultural significance. Throughout the halls of the United States Capitol there are statues of our founders, our heroes, our history. For the past 200 years, legislators have sweat blood and tears debating the laws of our great country.

In fact, many would argue the United States Capitol is sacred.

But there are many places across this country, no less sacred than the building behind me, that are being desecrated as we speak. It is inconceivable to imagine an oil rig plopped in the middle of the Sistine Chapel. But in fact that is the very problem facing Native American sacred lands today.

For example, the proposed site for a 1,600-acre, open-pit gold mine in Indian Pass, California, is a place where "dream trails" were

woven. The Bush Administration revoked a Clinton-era ruling that said mining operations would cause irreparable harm to these ancestral lands, an extremely sacred place to the Quechan Indian tribe. Now the tribe is left fighting for its religious and cultural history.

Long before my ancestors arrived on these shores, American Indians were the first stewards of this land. They respected the earth, water and air. They understood you take only what you need and leave the rest. They demonstrated you do not desecrate that which is sacred.

Most Americans understand a reverence for the great Sistine Chapel, or even the United States Capitol. But often non-Indians have difficulty giving that same reverence to a mountain, valley, stream or rock formation.

Recently Indian Country attained a victory in Valley of Chiefs, Montana. The oil company which sought to drill in this valley of peace agreed to transfer its oil leases to the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

But we cannot fight to preserve Native American sacred lands on a case by case basis. Valley of Chiefs serves as a wake-up call for action, for the pressing need to protect bona fide Native American sacred sites wherever they may lie on the public domain.

That is why today I am introducing the Native American Sacred Lands Protection Act. Joining me in the introduction of this legislation are DALE KILDEE of Michigan, GEORGE MILLER of California, ENI FALEOMAVAEGA of American Samoa, FRANK PALLONE of New Jersey, TOM UDALL of New Mexico, BRAD CARSON of Oklahoma, BETTY MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, PATRICK KENNEDY of Rhode Island and JOHN BALDACCI of Maine.

First, the bill would enact into law a 1996 executive order designed to protect sacred lands. Specifically, it ensures access and ceremonial use of sacred lands and mandates all federal land management agencies take the necessary steps to prevent significant damage to sacred lands.

Second, our bill gives Indian Tribes the ability to petition the government to place federal lands off-limits to energy leasing or other incompatible developments when they believe those proposed actions would cause significant damage to their sacred lands.

This is an extremely important provision. The tribes would no longer have to depend on the good graces of federal bureaucrats to protect these lands. Rather, the tribes themselves could initiate those protections.

If you look to our national parks, forests and monuments and you see the commitment to preserve many of our country's natural treasures. The Federal Government has put its full weight behind protecting these lands, and we can do the same for Indian Country.

At a time when the Bush Administration is promoting increased energy development, we must enact comprehensive legislation that prohibits the loss of further Native American sacred lands. We must not stand idly by as these unique places are wiped off the face of the earth.

We commend this legislation to the House of Representatives.

CONDEMNATION OF TERRORIST
BOMBINGS IN ISRAEL

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, The two simultaneous barbarous homicide bombing attacks that struck Tel Aviv last night, claiming the lives of 3 innocent civilians, took place in the immediate aftermath of Tuesday's terrorist ambush of an Israeli bus carrying civilians outside the Jewish community of Immanuel, claiming the lives of 8 Israelis, including an unborn baby. This attack took the lives of three members of the same family. The military wing of Yasir Arafat's Fatah movement, the Al Aqsa Martyr's Brigade, has taken responsibility for this attack.

As President Bush stated in his June 24 address on the Middle East, as long as Israelis continue to be victimized by terrorists, Israel will continue to defend itself. Any hope that the Palestinian Authority was serious about rejecting terrorism and undergoing serious reform, thereby creating the environment demanded by the President for peace talks to be able to proceed, has been dashed.

Yasir Arafat, and his close associates, who rule tyrannically over their own people while trafficking with terrorists targeting Israel, constitute the root cause of the Middle East violence, as well as the major obstacles to peace. These attacks were designed to coincide with a renewed diplomatic process, specifically the meeting of the Middle East "quartet" in New York, which is composed of the United States, the European Union, the United Nations and Russia.

Mr. Speaker, Israel must and will continue to defend itself and its citizens. Israel's military operation in the territories in recent weeks have resulted in the arrests of numerous terrorists, and has undoubtedly prevented countless acts of terror planned against Israeli civilians. Israel's security cannot be entrusted to anyone but Israel. Accordingly, we must support Israel's right to defend itself in the face of these continuing terrorist threats.

We must also make it clear to the Palestinian Authority that their insincere condemnations will not suffice. Those who cavort with terror, those who provide financial support to terrorist groups, and those who knowingly and willingly harbor such organizations while taking no actions against them, are enemies not just of Israel, but of the United States and the rest of the civilized world. They must be treated accordingly.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DONALD
GETZ

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the life and memory of Donald L. Getz, who has contributed selflessly to the betterment of his community and our society. It is my pleasure to applaud Donald's hard work and to honor his achievements before this body of Congress.

Donald was born in October 17, 1931 in Brighton, Colorado where he spent most of his childhood and adolescent years. He was a tremendous athlete, who guided his high school football and basketball teams to the state championship in 1949. Donald enlisted in the United States Navy in 1951, and served this country proudly during the Korean War. His humanitarian efforts during the war earned him respect and honor during his tour of duty. After his service, he returned to Colorado and worked in the trucking. Donald excelled in every aspect of his life, and used his hard work and determination to open the Anchor Bar and Café with his wife in 1974. He operated this very successful business until 1989 when he retired.

Donald was known for his dedication to his family and is survived by his wife Pat and their three children: Gregory, Todd, and Jill. Donald had two wonderful great grandchildren Katie and Nathan who were his pride and joy. Although his community mourns the loss of a great charitable man, they celebrate his great accomplishments and achievements.

Mr. Speaker it is a pleasure to praise the accomplishments to an outstanding individual. I am sure his legacy will live on in the hearts of his community and family. Donald Getz was a man of character and compassion and I take this moment to applaud his character and determination before this distinguished body.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, on July 17, 2002, an event at the White House to which this Member was invited caused this Member to unavoidably miss 4 roll call votes on H.R. 5093, a bill to provide FY2003 appropriations for the Department of the Interior. Had this Member been present, he would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall vote number 315—"no" (the amendment offered by the gentlelady from California, Mrs. Capps); Rollcall vote number 316—"aye" (the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon, Mr. Blumenauer); Rollcall vote number 317—"aye" (the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona, Mr. Shadegg); and Rollcall vote number 3 18—"aye" (final passage of H.R. 5093).

SHANE BENNETT

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Shane Bennett, a courageous Sheriff's Deputy from my district who gave his life so that others may live.

In the months since September 11, we have seen countless acts of bravery performed by our military, law enforcement officers and firefighters. Shane Bennett added his name to the list of those who paid the ultimate price to protect the people of this country.

Officer Bennett, a resident of Montgomery, Texas, in the 8th Congressional District, was

a nine-year veteran of the Harris County Sheriff's Department. Killed June 12 in a shootout after he responded to a home invasion, Officer Bennett saved the lives of a Houston man, his stepdaughters and his 3-month-old grandson.

Shane Bennett left behind his wife of six years, Teresa, and their 20-month-old daughter Alyssa.

The bravery that this young man displayed isn't the only character trait that describes his life. At his funeral, he was described as "caring, loving and compassionate." Teresa described him as "one of the most perfect people you will ever meet."

The sacrifice Shane displayed was not only evident in his final moments on this earth but countless times during his life. When he and Teresa first learned they were pregnant, he quit riding motorcycles because he didn't want to get in an accident. He always wanted his little girl to have her daddy.

When Alyssa was born, he took a month off of work to spend time with her and help his wife.

Teresa also recalls that he never hesitated to help friends and neighbors in need, either. "He would do anything for anybody," Teresa said. This was evident in Shane's last selfless act before he died.

Friends and colleagues remembered Shane as "everybody's friend" and that he was proud to be a sheriff's deputy. Harris County Sheriff's Deputy Bobby Davison said, "He was always there for his partners. Always there to back you up. He always had a smile on his face."

Mr. Speaker, the world would be a better place with more people like Shane Bennett, loving husband and father and a role model for law enforcement officers everywhere.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MONICAL'S PIZZA CORPORATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Monical's Pizza Corporation for receiving the 2002 Employer of Choice Award from the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation. Monical's Pizza Corporation (Monical's,) is located in Bradley, Illinois and is within my 11th Congressional District.

The Employer of Choice Awards are a component of the Industry of Choice Program. The initiative identifies critical areas to be addressed in the restaurant and food service industry to improve retention and operating performance. The winners of the award are recognized for their "best practices" and are held up as models for others to follow.

Monical's employs 950 people in over 50 locations located throughout Central Illinois with three in Indiana and one in Wisconsin. In 1997, Harry Bond, President of Monical's, began restructuring the company based on Harvard Business School's "Service Profit Chain". The "Service Profit Chain" is based on the idea of employee and guest satisfaction as the key to success and continued growth. Team leaders, support staff, restaurant managers as well as employees, have embraced the guest, and employee focused idea. Monical's has one of the lowest turnover rates in the industry. Many of their employees have been with them for over two decades.

According to President Harry Bond, "The company is constantly striving to improve planning and operations with the help of team members and their ideas. The best ideas come from our own staff. Monical's believes in hiring the best people and keeping them happy and productive."

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other companies in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefitted and strengthened America's communities and workforce.

TRIBUTE TO THE HIGH SCHOOL BOY'S ATHLETIC TEAMS IN PITTSBURG, KANSAS

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of the high school boy's athletic teams in Pittsburg, Kansas.

Last fall, the St. Mary's-Colgan Panthers began their school year by taking the state championship in football. They followed that by winning the state basketball championship in double overtime.

The eyes of people all over Kansas turned to this small school recognizing their amazing accomplishment. The Panthers then attempted to complete the trifecta with a baseball championship. They finished the state baseball tournament a respectable second.

However, the Panthers already had a rich baseball tradition, including state championships in four of the past six years.

As a former Olympian, I can appreciate the hard work, perseverance and grit that it takes to reach this level of athletic achievement.

I want to add my congratulations to this outstanding school and let them know that I, along with the rest of Kansas, eagerly anticipate their next season.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOB WALLACE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to pay tribute to the accomplishments of Bob Wallace. It is a great pleasure of mine to honor his hard work and determination, which led to the establishment of the Wallace Oil Company in 1962. Mr. Wallace contributed selflessly to the betterment of his community, which is why he is deserving of our admiration.

Bob Wallace graduated from Regis College in Denver, where he was an All-American on the school's basketball team. Following his graduation, he spent 15 months in the Air Force, where he was stationed at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma and was ranked as an All-American in the 1952 AAU Tournament. Mr. Wallace later participated in the Phillips company basketball team, the '66ers,' where he played at least 60 games a season.

Mr. Wallace created the Wallace Oil Company in 1962 from nothing more than \$15,000

in savings and a loan of \$10,000. After fifty years of devotion and hard work, Bob is officially retiring as an independent distributor, although he frequently consults with his sons who now own the company.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you to offer my appreciation to Mr. Wallace for being an outstanding inspiration for the Wallace Oil Company. I wish him the best with all of his future endeavors and applaud the many efforts he has made over the years to provide leadership and guidance to the La Junta community—he is an invaluable citizen! I wish Bob the best of luck in his future endeavors.

H.R. 4691

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Health Subcommittee held a hearing on the Abortion Non-Discrimination Act, H.R. 4691. The bill clarifies existing federal conscience protections that prohibit discrimination against health care entities that object to participating in abortion. This bill has the support of both faith-based and secular health care providers.

At the hearing, the subcommittee heard testimony from Karen Vosburgh, who serves on the board of Valley Hospital in Palmer, Alaska. Valley Hospital is a private non-sectarian hospital. But in 1997, the Alaska Supreme Court held that Valley Hospital was a “quasi-public hospital” and ordered it to open its doors for elective second trimester abortions.

Most hospitals do not participate in abortions. According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, 86% of all hospitals choose not to get involved in abortions. These are religious hospitals of all denominations, non-religious private hospitals, and even public hospitals. There is a reason why: abortion is not health care. It is elective surgery that takes the life of an unborn child.

Abortion advocates are trying to force hospitals to perform abortions against their will. This is wrong. No hospital should be forced to take the life of an unborn child against its will. Religiously-affiliated hospitals and hospitals that simply don't want to offer the elective procedure shouldn't have to.

I hope the Congress acts quickly to pass the Abortion Non-Discrimination Act, and I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this legislation. I submit for the record a list of supporting organizations, and letters we have received from two of these organizations: the Catholic Health Association, and the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons.

THE CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES,

June 17, 2002.

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKAS,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Health, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BILIRAKAS: On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA) I am writing to express our support for HR 4691, the Abortion Non-Discrimination Act. Provisions in this legislation would provide Catholic Health providers safeguards to continue operating in a manner consistent with their moral beliefs and principles.

Increasingly, Catholic and other faith-based health care providers have come under

attack for not offering so-called “reproductive health services (e.g.—abortions, etc). In recent years, we have seen orchestrated campaigns to force Catholic health providers to offer services that conflict with our values and moral principles. These campaigns have led to legislation in several states and localities that could force Catholic hospitals to close or substantially reduce their services to the community. These threats continue and fundamentally effect the ability of Catholic Providers to deliver services to their communities.

In several states and for certain federal programs, Catholic and other faith-based providers have been able to secure “conscience clause” protection against mandatory provisions of objectionable services. Unfortunately, these approaches are often inadequate and require “year after year” reauthorization. They fail to provide permanent protection and assurances the Catholic providers can continue to operate unencumbered.

In addition to supporting HR 4691, CHA supports legislative efforts to establish a permanent and comprehensive federal conscience clause. We look forward to working with you and the Committee to achieve these ends.

Sincerely,

REV. MICHAEL D. PLACE, STD,
President and Chief Executive Officer.

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE ABORTION
NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT (ANDA) H.R. 4691/
S. 2008

Americans United for Life
Association of American Physicians and Surgeons
Catholic Health Association
Catholic Medical Association
Christian Coalition
Christian Legal Society
Christian Medical Association
Christus Medicus
Concerned Women for America
Democrats for Life of America
Eagle Forum
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission,
Southern Baptist Convention
Family Research Council
Feminists for Life of America
Focus on the Family
Lutherans for Life
National Council of Catholic Women
National Organization of Episcopalians for Life
National Right to Life Committee
Presbyterians Pro-Life
Seamless Garment Network
Seventh Day Adventists, World Headquarters
Susan B. Anthony List
Traditional Values Coalition
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

HONORING ANDREA MYSLENSKI

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Andrea Myslenski, a special young girl in my Congressional district who suffers from a very rare and serious disease, “Post Viral Dysautonomia.” This is a condition that affects the autonomic nervous system and renders her very tired and unable to go to school or have the normal social life of a 15-year old girl. Andrea was home tutored due to

Dysautonomia the second half of eighth grade. She completed all of her work and was awarded the Presidential Award for academic achievement. Andrea began 9th grade with the hope of completing the school year, but a virus caused a relapse of Dysautonomia. She was unable to attend school in October, 2001, and home tutored for the rest of the school year.

Dysautonomia is manifested by symptoms of fatigue, weakness, forgetfulness, brain fog, and mood swings, etc. It has been a very trying time for the family. Perhaps one of the biggest challenges was actually making a definitive diagnosis of Dysautonomia. It took several visits to multiple doctors before a definitive diagnosis was made, making it quite apparent why it is called an “invisible disease.”

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my support to Andrea and many children like her that suffer from Dysautonomia. It is my hope that we become educated about this disease and become strong supporters for the research and treatment of this invisible illness. I am proud to have Andrea as a member of my district and hope that one day a cure for this disease will be found.

COMMENDING THE U.S.-ASIA
INSTITUTE

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives the work of the U.S.-Asia Institute, which plays an important role in improving understanding between the United States and China. This nongovernmental organization promotes an ongoing exchange of views between policy makers in the U.S. and China.

Since 1985, a principal vehicle for furthering this dialogue has been the congressional staff delegation visits to the People's Republic of China organized by the U.S.-Asia Institute and hosted by the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs. These official visits serve to increase awareness, knowledge, and understanding of U.S. and Chinese policies. The 50th delegation will travel to China in August 2002.

To commemorate this milestone, the U.S.-Asia Institute is hosting special events in Washington, D.C. in July 2002. The Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs will reciprocate by hosting special events in Beijing in August 2002.

Since its inception, this program has hosted more than 400 congressional staff members who have traveled throughout China—from Heihe in the north on the Russian border to Hainan Island in the south; from the dynamic coastal cities of Shanghai and Guangzhou to the remote city of Urumqi, an oasis on the ancient Silk Road; from Tibet to Kunming to Beijing and other places in between. Over 150 congressional office and committee staff members have benefitted from fact-finding and the opportunity to discuss in depth issues of mutual interest to our great nations. The progress of the U.S.-Sino relationship rests on dialogue and engagement, and this program provides participants with an unparalleled first-hand view of China, its culture, its government, and its people.

In recognition of a program that promotes understanding, goodwill, and trade between the people of China and the United States, I commend the U.S.-Asia Institute and the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs for their work and hope that this long-standing partnership will continue for many years to come.

UKRAINIAN LEADERSHIP
PROGRAM

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Chairman TAYLOR and Ranking Member MORAN for their diligent work in putting together the FY03 Legislative Appropriations bill. I am particularly pleased that the Committee Report for this bill calls for a study by the Librarian of Congress to determine the feasibility of establishing a Ukrainian Leadership Program (ULP).

The ULP would target young Ukrainian leaders from local and regional governments and give them the opportunity to travel to the United States and meet with federal officials in Washington. The Ukrainian officials would also travel to various congressional districts and meet with local officials. While in local communities, these young leaders would meet with farmers, bankers, educators, and business people. In these meetings, the Ukrainians will be able to observe the critical functions that these groups serve in a democracy. The Ukrainian American community will be actively involved in its implementation and providing logistical support thus reducing the cost to the U.S. government.

The ULP will provide the next generation of local leaders with a better understanding of the relationships between the federal and local governments and the constituencies they represent. These young officials would be able to return to Ukraine with greater knowledge of the inner workings of democracy. This knowledge is critical to implementing further democratic reforms in Ukraine.

Ukraine is at a crossroads. While it has taken great strides towards democracy since its independence in 1991, reforms have slowed over the last few years. As the sixth most populous nation in Europe, the Ukrainian people are people eager for reform. The U.S. can help ensure that democratic reforms are successful by supporting Ukraine's young leaders.

This bill takes a significant step towards the realization of the ULP. We all recognize the large task of establishing such a program. With this study in hand, Congress will have road map with which to move forward on this issue.

The ULP has the support the Ukrainian American community and the young leaders in Ukraine. This step that the Committee has taken is appreciated around the world. Again, I'd like to thank Chairman TAYLOR and Ranking Member MORAN for their hard work on this issue. I look forward to the report and working with my colleagues on this issue.

BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR MRS. SUE
SHAFFER

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer best wishes and birthday greetings for a good friend of mine, Mrs. Sue Shaffer, Chairwoman of the Cow Creek Nation. We've worked together for years on issues of importance to tribal governments across the nation. Whenever I speak with tribal leaders around the nation and with lawmakers here in our nation's Capitol about Indian Country, I talk about success stories like those of the Cow Creek Band.

Sue represents the spirit of achievement that so embodies the history of the Cow Creek people. Fighting against a federal government that was at times hostile and at other times indifferent towards them, the people of Cow Creek worked hard from the first treaty with the United States in 1853 until their restoration in 1982 to make a great community for themselves. They've purchased land for themselves and have developed a great business enterprise through the Seven Feathers Casino and other diverse business interests.

Mr. Speaker, what they've done for their community and for all of the non-tribal members they employ is great, and it's in no small part due to the leadership of Chairwoman Shaffer. I'm proud to recognize her as a leader in Indian Country and as a respected Chairwoman in her tribe, but I'm most proud to call her my friend. Thank you for all you've done, Sue. Have a happy 80th birthday and I wish you many more.

HONORING JEANNIE SWEENEY AMBROSE FOR HER COMMITMENT TO VETERANS IN HER COMMUNITY

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Air Force Captain Jeannie Sweeney Ambrose, a Vietnam veteran and fellow Pittsburgh Irish-American. Captain Ambrose has served seven years on active service with the Air Force as a nurse and has dedicated much of her life to caring for and honoring all veterans.

Born in Ireland, Captain Ambrose immigrated to the United States in the early 1960s and joined the Air Force after becoming a United States citizen. Captain Ambrose served a tour in Vietnam at Camrahn Bay in a MASH unit, where in her time off, she volunteered her skills as a midwife for impoverished Vietnamese civilians. Following her Vietnam tour, she continued to serve our country in an Air Force Hospital in London where she met her husband, Eddie Ambrose, who has also served his country as a C-131 pilot in Europe.

In addition to compassionately caring for our soldiers during the Vietnam War, Captain Ambrose continues her work of honoring veterans through her poems. Every Memorial Day, veterans gather to hear her touching rendition of

a poem she wrote, Flanders Field. Captain Ambrose's efforts on behalf of those who have served our country should be recognized, thus I have included one of her poems "Take My Hand" so that my colleagues in Congress and all Americans may share in her compassionate views. I believe that by honoring Captain Ambrose, we are recognizing not only her efforts, but also the efforts and importance of nurses who serve during wartime.

As a son of a World War II veteran, I would like to extend my gratitude to Captain Jeannie Sweeney Ambrose for her kindness and compassion towards our servicemen and women. She is to be commended for her efforts on behalf of Pittsburgh veterans.

TAKE MY HAND

(By Jeannie Sweeney Ambrose)

Here—take hold of my hand, Lad,
I'll try to kill the pain,
You've had your share of fighting this day,
We'll get you well and home again.
Here—take hold of my hand, Lad,
Don't go away from me now,
I'll stop the blood and fix your wounds
But you must stay with me and fight the pain.

Here—take hold of my hand, Lad,
I can't lose more of you now,
We've all come so far, the lot of us,
And I've got to get you to your home again.

Ah—Lad, you must not quit on me now,
I'll not let you go, you hear,
Come, fight with me just once more,
Your mom must not be left to cry.

He had looked at me with one brief smile,
And had asked me my name.
I said call me Jeannie, or call me your mom,
Today it will all be the same.

My lad squeezed my hand one more time,
He smiled and then he died,
I closed my eyes to remember his face, and said,

I'll see you each year as we call out the names.

Ah Lad, I still see your face,
And all those we tried to save,
Your face and smile were all we had,
To help get us through those days.

I still remember those lads, they were
Our country's best
They had fought and died for all of us,
In a land so far, far away,
Now they were all gone, now all at rest.

My lads are here and everywhere today,
We must never forget what they gave,
They cannot smile or laugh at war anymore,
But then neither can we who stay.

Ah Lad, if I could just hold your hand once more,

It would help me remember this day,
I cannot forget their faces anymore,
Nor the reasons they died in such pain.

I go to the Wall each year to find my lads,
There are so many of them now,
The Wall grows warm under my hand
As I find and touch their names.
Here Lads, hold my hand,
We're all together again.

WILLIAM BATTERMAN RUGER

HON. JOHN E. SUNUNU

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to the family of William B. Ruger who passed away on July 6 at

his home in Prescott, Arizona, and to celebrate the life of this true American original—inventor, manufacturer and business owner.

Although he was not New Hampshire born, Bill Ruger embodied the best of the Granite State. He blazed his own trail, and in the process, turned his name into a recognizable symbol of ingenuity and workmanship.

A native of Brooklyn, Bill Ruger was interested in firearms for virtually his entire life. He received his first rifle from his father at age 12, and as a teenager, read and studied as much as he could on firearms; the history of firearms, their design and how they are manufactured. Bill carried his passion for firearms to the University of North Carolina where as a student he turned a vacant room into a machine shop. His interest in firearms was so keen that while in his early 20's, Bill developed the preliminary plans for a light machine gun for use by the Army.

After two years at North Carolina, Bill left to work at what he loved. He took a job in a gun factory and eventually opened his own business as a toolmaker; a business which did not succeed. Still, during that time, Bill kept experimenting with firearm designs, eventually perfecting a design for a .22 caliber pistol.

In 1949, with a \$50,000 investment from his partner, Alexander Sturm, Bill Ruger founded a firearm manufacturing business in a "little red barn" in Southport, Connecticut. As business increased, Sturm, Ruger and Company expanded, opening new plants including a plant in Newport, New Hampshire in 1963 to produce its own firearms components instead of paying others to do the same. Today, Sturm, Ruger and Company is world-renowned for its more than 50 models of revolvers, police sidearms, target pistols, rifles and shotguns, and has developed a reputation for quality in specialized castings for products in the aerospace field, the automobile industry, medicine and the sport of golf. The company has grown to become America's largest firearms manufacturer and one of New Hampshire's largest employers; all under the watchful eye of Bill Ruger.

Bill Ruger valued his employees and their craftsmanship and would never sell a product he would not have been proud to own himself. This attention to excellence is a fact to which generations of firearms owners, police officers and military personnel will attest.

Beyond the success Bill Ruger enjoyed as a firearms manufacturer, he had many other pursuits and interests including his collection of antique firearms, 19th Century Western American art, and antique automobiles and was particularly known as a generous and charitable man who gave of himself and his finances.

The foundation of his life, though, was his family—his son, William Ruger Jr., who now heads the family business; his daughter, Carolyn Vogel; his six grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. Each held a special place in his heart, as did the memory of his lovely wife, Mary Thompson Ruger, who passed away in 1994, and that of his late son, James Thompson ("Tom") Ruger.

In New Hampshire, Bill Ruger's legacy will remain for decades to come. He was an American original, and those of us fortunate enough to have been able to know Bill will truly miss him.

NEW ALLIES, OLD FORMULA

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep concern about the undemocratic and totalitarian actions of the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev. He has recently banned several opposition parties, arrested and exiled their leaders, and has made the formation of new parties virtually impossible. He has shut down many newspapers and television stations in Kazakhstan, preventing its citizens from having a free press. Furthermore, President Nazarbayev has reportedly placed \$1 billion dollars of oil revenue into a secret Swiss bank account.

This behavior should not be tolerated and I believe it is important at this time to focus international attention on this situation. President Nazarbayev needs to allow for all legitimate opposition parties and their leaders to run for public office and allow for all exiled political leaders to return to Kazakhstan. He must also allow for a free press, the foundation of any democracy. President Nazarbayev should be held accountable for widespread corruption, including the placement of government funds into secret Swiss bank accounts. I am asking that we insert into the RECORD a July 12th editorial written by the Washington Post Editorial Board which more fully describes the injustices currently occurring in Kazakhstan. [the article follows]

[The Washington Post—Friday, July 12, 2002]

NEW ALLIES, OLD FORMULA

As the United States rushed to strengthen ties to the countries of Central Asia after Sept. 11, one question that quickly arose was whether the new military agreements and economic packages would serve only to bolster the repressive rule of the region's autocrats or whether U.S. influence would also be used to bring about political and economic reform. Some 10 months later the first answers are in, and they are at best mixed. The region's most repressive ruler, Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan, has also proved to be the one most eager to forge a close relationship with Washington; consequently, his government has responded to concerted pressure from the Bush administration with a few modest concessions and promises of more. Elsewhere, however, a couple of new allies may have concluded that their new utility as U.S. security partners empowers them to repress their domestic opponents all the more forcefully.

Nursultan Nazarbayev, the president of Kazakhstan, certainly seems untroubled by any imperative to accept Western norms of democracy or human rights. Though his huge, oil-rich country once appeared to be leading the former Soviet republics of the region in reforming the old system, it has, since Sept. 11, moved steadily in the opposite direction. Mr. Nazarbayev, a former member of the Soviet Politburo who took over Kazakhstan when it became independent and has ruled it ever since, did not take kindly to the formation of an opposition party by former government officials late last year. He arrested and tried several of its leaders, and recently he had his rubber-stamp parliament pass a new law making the legal formation of such parties virtually impossible. The president also did not like reading reports in the Kazakh media about a secret Swiss bank account in which he deposited \$1

billion in oil revenue. A score of newspapers and an equal number of television stations have been forced to shut down in recent months, and a number of journalists have been attacked or threatened.

Mr. Nazarbayev has arrogantly dismissed U.S. complaints about his behavior, just as he has waved off suggestions that he consider allowing more democracy. Instead, he seems to be modeling himself on the long-time U.S. allies in the Persian Gulf. Rather than reform, he signs drilling and pipeline deals that will allow his country to rake in billions in oil income; rather than respect human rights, he offers cooperation with the U.S. military. Just this week his government formalized an agreement with the Bush administration that will allow emergency landings and refuelings for U.S. military planes at Almaty's international airport.

Bush administration officials say they understand that accepting a relationship on such terms is more than a political embarrassment. "Authoritarian governments and largely unreformed economies," Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Lynn Pascoe told a recent congressional hearing, "create the conditions of repression and poverty that could well become the breeding grounds for further terrorism." The question, then, is how to break the old model that Mr. Nazarbayev would renew. As in the Persian Gulf, admonitions from ambassadors, and even rhetoric from the White House, will not be enough; Mr. Nazarbayev must understand that his country's relationship with the United States depends on political change. Does the Pentagon really need another landing arrangement in Central Asia? If such agreements were withheld—or frozen—Mr. Nazarbayev and other Central Asian dictators would be quick to get the message.

CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF SAMATHA RUNNION

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my condolences to the family and friends of Samatha Runnion, and to all those who have been affected by her tragic murder.

Samantha was abducted from her home in Stanton, California, on Monday, July 15. She was sexually assaulted and murdered, and her body was found the next day in Cleveland National Forest.

President George W. Bush has called on Attorney General John Ashcroft and FBI Director Robert Mueller to order that all federal resources necessary be made available to the Orange County sheriff's office. Rewards totaling more than \$100,000 have been offered by British Petroleum, which employs Samantha's mother, the Coalition of Police and Sheriffs in Santa Ana and others.

What happened to Samantha is deeply disturbing. Why does something like this have to happen to an innocent child? We shouldn't have to keep children off the streets. They should be allowed to go out and play, without fear of such horrendous acts. Parents shouldn't have to worry about their children disappearing the moment they turn their backs.

Sadly, the television has recently been strewn with alarming news of missing children like Samantha, Elizabeth Smart, Jahi Turner,

and others. We hope that justice will be served, but even finding those accountable gives just a slightly cathartic feeling after such a huge loss. Our hearts go out to Samantha's family, the families of these other children, and anyone else feeling the pain of losing a child.

“WATCH WHAT WE DO, NOT WHAT WE SAY”

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, over the past few months, we have seen one revelation after another about the conflicts of interest rampant among figures of the Bush Administration, from the President and Vice President, themselves, to senior officials in key agencies. We have had a veritable cornucopia of conflicts. Almost every day, the media has uncovered a new one. It reminds me of a prophetic invitation made by John Mitchell, President Nixon's first Attorney General. Before we learned the scope of Watergate, Mitchell asked the American people to:

WATCH WHAT WE DO—NOT WHAT WE SAY

Well we watched what Mr. Mitchell did, as he requested. And John Mitchell went to jail. His advice seems particularly pertinent these days. Practically every senior official of the Bush Administration has made pious speeches about the importance of business ethics, professional integrity and scrupulous avoidance of conflict of interest. That's what they have said.

But when we examine what they have done, the chasm between their sermons and their actions is striking. That sharp contrast angers ordinary citizens who have been laid off, or seen their nest egg investments evaporate, or their pensions become worthless. Why should they be angry? Let me count the ways.

DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL LARRY THOMPSON

The head of the President's so-called “Swat Team” on corporate crime is Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson. He already has rejected my call, months ago, for him to recuse himself from the Department's decisions in the Enron scandal. I did so because Thompson had received benefits from—and might be receiving a pension from—a law firm that has substantially represented Enron. That raised a serious possibility that he could not vigorously pursue the case against Enron. At the least, I asked him to explain his decision if he did not recuse himself.

Now Thompson has pledged to the public that he will hunt down corporate criminals “with vigor and aggressive manner.” Yet Thompson was on the board of Providian Financial Corporation and chaired its compliance and audit committee, at a time when—to put it very charitably—Providian was not only unscrupulously enticing and exploiting the poorest class of debtors, but also inflating earnings by excessive charges and by shady lender practices that violated federal and state consumer protection rules. Thompson's spokesman has claimed that he only learned of these practices when regulators made inquiries. His spokesman actually claimed that Thompson was owed applause for helping to settle the claims. Well I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, but if he was chairman of Providian's compli-

ance committee and was unaware his corporation was badly out of compliance, then I have to wonder if he's fit to manage the Department of Justice.

It's bad enough for someone with the sensitivities Thompson should have, that Providian's growth relied on pursuing customers with poor credit card histories, who have difficulty obtaining further credit, misled them into accepting excessive interest rates and hidden charges, and denied the customary grace period for delinquent credit card payments. Apparently, Thompson, and other executive insiders, dumped large blocks of stock knowing that the reported revenues were overstated because of these unlawful practices. And worse still—just like the Enron officials Thompson is supposed to be investigating—the Providian executives sold their company stock while recommending purchase of large holdings of that stock to the employees 401 K plan. It is true that Thompson would have had to sell his shares in the company in connection with his nomination; but there is no suggestion yet that he was going to act any differently than his Providian colleagues, even before his nomination.

ARMY SECRETARY THOMAS WHITE

Thomas White was Vice President of Enron's Energy Services Unit, one of the company's components engaged in its most egregious accounting practices. In 1981, between June and October he unloaded over \$12 million worth of Enron stock. Investigators are assessing whether he violated insider trading laws. In addition he first hid the full number of contacts he had with Enron officials after he had assumed federal office. Then he admitted to having 84 phone calls with company officials in his first 10 months as Army Secretary. He also failed to comply with the ethics laws in divesting himself in a timely manner of all of his Enron shares and options. As in Larry Thompson's case, if White's dubious claims are true that he was unaware of the corporation's phony accounting, it is hard to have confidence in his ability to manage operations and procurement involving billions of dollars.

In sum, I cannot put his offensive situation any better than a New York Times Editorial that said: “Army Secretary Thomas White has repeatedly pledged that, if questions stemming from his ties to Enron became too much of a distraction, he would resign. They now have and he should.”

PRESIDENT BUSH

The numerous serious questions raised about President's Bush's relationship with Harken Energy while he served on its board have been widely reported in the press. These principally include the circumstances under which he received several loans to purchase company stock; and under which he sold stock with knowledge of negative business news that was about to be made public. Obviously such serious charges require a thorough airing. In the meanwhile, the public will have to make its own judgment as to whether the President's corporate experience makes it inappropriate for him to so sternly lecture the private sector on the importance of the highest ethical standards for American business.

VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY

A major Securities and Exchange Commission investigation is underway of oil services giant Halliburton Corporation. Among other activities at issue are Halliburton accounting

practices, which were parallel to those of other corporations now under current public scrutiny. Vice President CHENEY was not merely a vice president or division chief at Halliburton, Mr. Speaker, he was the CEO. He was in charge. Polls have shown that 53 percent of the American people believe he is either lying or hiding something about his involvement in Halliburton's questionable corporate practices. This is hardly surprising since the Nation is already suspicious about Mr. CHENEY's refusal to make public his secret meetings with oil industry executives lobbying his energy policy task force behind the scenes. Yet the Vice President refuses to disclose his records regarding his role in these Halliburton transactions. He won't even talk about this troubling matter, even though there is no law, regulation or rule that he has been able to cite that would prevent him from doing so.

The Vice President says that whenever the SEC asks him for information, he will cooperate fully. . . . But that raises a catch 22 problem because the head of the SEC, Chairman Harvey Pitt, himself has two conflicts of interest that are equally serious

HARVEY PITT

First, as is now widely known, Mr. Pitt for years was private lapdog of almost every major accounting firm and numerous banking clients. His bona fides to conduct vigorous investigation of past wrongdoing and oversight of future conduct are highly suspect. This is especially disturbing because his one year “probation period” under the Ethics Law is about to end. He then will be free even to participate in cases involving his former clients. To be sure, in recent weeks, Chairman Pitt has missed no opportunity to proclaim how tough he plans to be on corporate criminals. But last fall, he was telling people that what the private sector needed was a “kinder, gentler SEC.” This year he strongly lobbied for the far weaker Oxley bill to regulate corporate misbehavior, rather than the tough Sarbanes bill that passed the Senate unanimously last week.

Second, it will not be credible to the American public that Mr. Pitt will really pull out all the stops to investigate wrongdoing by the Halliburton and Harken corporations and “let the chips fall where they may” regarding any culpable involvement of the President or the Vice President. As James Madison sagely advised over two hundred years ago, “If men were angels,” we would need no government watchdogs. Even if we were convinced that Mr. Pitt is an honorable man, none of us are angels. It is too much to expect that he will supervise investigations which may involve his bosses, President Bush and Vice President CHENEY, without being influenced one iota by their relationship to him. The inherent conflict is just too great.

Therefore, I call on Chairman Pitt to appoint a widely respected Special Counsel to the SEC, clearly independent of Pitt's chain of command authority, to conduct those investigations, as well as any investigation involving Pitt's former clients. Should he and the Department of Justice determine he lacks full authority to do so, then I call on them to present to the House and Senate the necessary legislation to provide that authority, so that we may enact it expeditiously.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with President Bush and the other outspoken Administration officials that it is essential to restore public confidence in American corporate ethics, investor

markets and the operation of our free market system. Appointing a Special Counsel for the SEC to pursue these sensitive cases will help us start to do so right away.

CHAMPION OF HOUSING

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great leader and a pillar of the community, Rollan Jones.

Founder and Chairman of the Board of R-Anell Housing Group in Denver, North Carolina, Rollan was known as a driving force in the manufactured housing industry until his death on May 29, 2002. His vision and his determination were contributing factors to the growth of manufactured housing in North Carolina and the Southeast. In his 46 years in the manufactured housing industry, he gained expertise in every facet of the business, from production line to Chairman of the Board.

His accomplishments as an innovator and leader in the manufactured housing industry were nationally recognized with his induction into the Hall of Fame in 1994. He was also a founding member and past President of the North Carolina Manufactured Housing Institute, James E. Lavasque Award recipient, and served on the MHI Board of Directors for ten years.

Rollan is credited with pioneering many of the manufacturing processes and technologies in use today. Noted as a champion of design, materials, workmanship and service, he established the core principles required to make R-Anell Housing Group an industry benchmark.

He will be remembered through the countless lives he touched, the friends, family and acquaintances he held so important, and his habit of lending a hand wherever it was needed. In all of his glory, through his tireless efforts in the housing industry, somehow Rollan found the time to be a FINE fisherman as well. He will be sorely missed.

GENERAL BENJAMIN O. DAVIS, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of General Benjamin O. Davis Jr., who departed this life on July 4th, after a distinguished career as our country's first black Air Force general officer.

He will be remembered in history for his command of the Tuskegee Airmen—that amazing squadron that flew more than 10,000 sorties over North Africa and Europe during World War II and never lost a plane! Even more than that, his colleagues in the military recognize him as a truly great leader and warrior throughout his 34 years of uniformed service to his country. And, perhaps most of all, General Davis is known by all as an exemplary public servant and model citizen whose extraordinary success and many contributions have played a big part in turning the tide against official racism. As former Defense

Secretary William Cohen has said, he proved that blacks and whites cannot only serve together, they can succeed together.

General Davis, we salute you, Sir, for your great and distinguished service to our great nation.

RECOGNIZING REAR ADMIRAL ROLAND KNAPP

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding naval officer, Rear Admiral Roland Knapp, from Gig Harbor, Washington. Admiral Knapp has served with considerable distinction and dedication for the past 33 years, and I would like to take this opportunity in the House of Representatives to thank him for his service and his contributions to the defense of our great nation.

On July 26, Admiral Knapp will retire from the Navy after 33 years of active service, and he will leave command of the Navy's Executive Office for Aircraft Carriers here in Washington, DC.

During his tenure as Commander of the Navy's Aircraft Carriers Office, Admiral Knapp has overseen the christening of USS *Ronald Reagan*, our newest nuclear aircraft carrier, the complex refueling overhaul of the USS *Nimitz* and the contract awarding of CVN-77. He has also been responsible for all aircraft carrier acquisition and life cycle support programs the past 2½ years. During this tenure his command worked with the fleet to ensure our "in-service" carrier force was maintained at the highest possible levels of readiness. Their brilliant dedication to our force was visibly evident during the recent sustained combat-operations conducted during Operation "Enduring Freedom." In addition, Admiral Knapp has ensured the success of our aircraft carrier programs well into the future through his numerous innovative business practices as well as merging the latest technological advances into our carrier fleet.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Admiral Knapp and his wife Jean for their honorable service to our nation. I Join my colleagues in the House today in wishing them continued success and the traditional naval wish of "Fair winds and Following seas" as Admiral Knapp closes out his distinguished military career.

HONORING PORT CHICAGO ANNIVERSARY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, this week we commemorate the 58th anniversary of the July 17, 1944 disaster that caused the largest Home Front loss of life during World War II: the massive explosion at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine near Concord, California.

Fifty eight years ago this week, 320 sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, Merchant Mari-

ners, and workers were killed in the gigantic explosion of armaments being loaded aboard ships bound for the Pacific theater. Most of the men, who served as munitions loaders, were black. Commanded exclusively by white officers, they were given little training or equipment to assist them in the dangerous and ultimately fatal job of loading high explosives. For years, the exact nature of the explosives they loaded remained secret, concealing the fact that the dangers and the need for training—had been significantly underestimated.

Several days after the explosion—after they had tended the wounded and picked up the shredded remains of their colleagues—the surviving black sailors were ordered back to load more ships without any further training, and before it was even established what had caused the cataclysmic loss of life. Several hundred refused, and ultimately, 50 were tried for mutiny and convicted.

Over the past decade and a half, there has been a great movement to clear the names of these men, who were loyal, brave and dedicated sailors serving a nation that segregated them, exposed them to unreasonable dangers, and railroaded them into prison on trumped up mutiny charges. Over a half century later, the terrible mistreatment of these sailors calls out for justice.

When we began the effort to inform the American people about Port Chicago, it was an almost forgotten chapter in American military and social history. Now, a decade and a half later, there are books, articles, documentaries that have ran repeatedly on cable television, and even a full length television movie. While we have not cleansed the convictions from the records of all the men, the conviction was removed from one record because of congressionally mandated review, and Freddie Meeks, one of the few sailors remaining alive, received a full presidential pardon.

Today, the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial at the site of the explosion commemorates the men who lost their lives on July 17, 1944, and all those who served at that base. That Memorial, which I was honored to sponsor, was dedicated on the 50th anniversary of the explosion.

For those interested in learning more about this historic story, there are also numerous web pages, including:

www.portchicagomunity.com;
www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/pc/;
www.historychannel.com/exhibits/portchicago/;
www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/USN/fax/PC/;
www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq80-1.htm;
www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq80-4.htm;
www.nps.gov/poch/index.htm.

This year, a team of very talented young people from Bakersfield High School in Bakersfield, California produced an outstanding documentary that won the statewide History Day competition and was submitted to the national competition. I congratulate Dan Ketchell and his entire team, for their outstanding work on the Port Chicago film.

And the Port Chicago story has changed lives. I have been to many of the annual services held at the Port Chicago chapel, and have spoken with the men and women who lost parents, brothers, and other relatives in the explosion: many who never knew the full story of how their loved one perished until reading the story of Port Chicago in a news story or seeing one of the films. And then they came to the site of the explosion, perhaps saw

their relative's name engraved on the marble, and understood something about their family they never really knew before. One daughter of a victim from Texas, Raye Adkins, who was born after her father's death and was named for him, has dedicated herself to researching the families of the victims.

One year ago, several dozen Members of the Congress joined me in sending a letter to President Bush, asking that he examine the Port Chicago case and the impressive record developed in conjunction with the Meeks pardon. We asked him to use his Executive powers to grant clemency to all the sailors prosecuted for protesting the racism under which they were forced to live and work, even as they served their nation during a war against racism and persecution. I am so pleased that the members of Alpha Kappa Alpha, a sorority with more than 140,000 members throughout the nation, has sent dozens upon dozens of names on a petition to the President urging him to accede to this request for his intervention.

The Port Chicago story lives on as an increasingly fascinating piece of U.S. history and as a moving tribute to the men who served and died that terrible night 58 years ago. I know the Members of the House of Representatives join me in honoring all the men of Port Chicago for their selfless service, their courage and their sacrifice.

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO
MS. IDA HILL-MOORE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay a special birthday tribute to Ms. Ida Hill-Moore, who will be celebrating her 80th birthday on Saturday, July 20th.

Ms. Hill-Moore was born in Columbia, South Carolina and raised in Detroit, Michigan. She attended Detroit Public schools, after which she attended many institutions of higher education.

Ida Hill-Moore has dedicated her life to her family and friends in all of the communities in which she has lived. She loved her two sons, John and Jeffery, very dearly. Sadly, both have passed away.

In 1957, Ms. Hill-Moore moved to Los Angeles, California, where she worked for the Los Angeles Police Department. Afterward, she worked for the prestigious Los Angeles County Museum. Ms. Hill-Moore has a long history of civic duty and continues to remain active in her community. She has served as a Member of the Conference of Concerned Citizens, and she is the current President of Angeles Place residential home.

I am proud to join Ms. Hill-Moore's family and friends as we celebrate her commitment and dedication to her family, friends and humanity itself. Today, I wish you a very happy birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE SAN GABRIEL/
POMONA VALLEY C.O.P.E. OF
THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FED-
ERATION OF LABOR FOR OVER 50
YEARS OF SERVICE AND LEAD-
ERSHIP

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the San Gabriel/Pomona Valley Council on Political Education (C.O.P.E.) for more than 50 years of leadership and service to the Southern California community.

The San Gabriel/Pomona Valley C.O.P.E. has championed the rights of working men and women throughout the community. Through its large network of dedicated union members and their families, C.O.P.E. has actively worked to improve wages, working conditions, health care, education, and the overall quality of life of every worker.

Much of the success of the San Gabriel/Pomona Valley C.O.P.E. is attributed to the efforts of its membership and the tremendous commitment of its leadership. Today, I would like to recognize the service of past leaders that played an important role in the organization's well-being, namely: Arnold F. Hackman, Meat Cutters Local Union #439; Dallas Jones, formerly of the Los Angeles County Firefighters Local #1014 and now serving as Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services for the State of California; William R. Lathrop, United Food & Commercial Workers Union #1167; Jesse Martinez, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Local #1976, #309, and #409; Joseph R. Rocha, Laborers International Union of North America Local #1082; Herb Schisler, Los Angeles County Firefighters AFL-CIO Local #1014; and John M. Wolsdorf, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers AFL-CIO Local #1710.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the San Gabriel/Pomona Valley C.O.P.E. for their work and contributions to this great nation.

COMMENDING THE COMMUNITY OF
LAMAR COUNTY, TEXAS, ON THE
PURCHASE OF THE OLD PARIS
POST OFFICE

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the vision and leadership of the leaders of Lamar County, Texas, the commitment of its citizens and the recognition of the success that can occur when the federal and local governments work together for the common good.

Tomorrow, on July 19, 2002, the Lamar County Commissioners Court will save a building in Paris, Texas, that reflects the history of this community. Further, the Court will give the building new life and a new public purpose.

In a matter of hours, Lamar County will approve the purchase of the historical Paris Post Office from the United States Postal Service.

This building will be used for courtrooms, office space, and other public purposes. The building will be a center of justice and local government for generations to come.

Our nation is a nation of laws. Our constitution is strong, enduring and based on principles of right and wrong. We believe in freedom, justice and certain unalienable rights that are extended to all people. Many of these issues are considered daily in courthouses all across America.

A courthouse is more than bricks and mortar. A courthouse is a physical testament to the commitment of the American people to the principles we hold dear. Times change. Society changes. Other buildings may come and go.

But a court house remains—visible, strong, and permanent. A courthouse reassures our citizens that our law is here today, was here yesterday and will be here tomorrow.

In addition to being used a courthouse, this historic building will provide the citizens of Paris and Lamar County with additional public space to be used in a way that is deemed appropriate by the community and its leaders. Those uses may change from year to year. This is as it should be. A building such as this recognizes both the stability of our society and the changing needs of that society.

I think it is entirely fitting and proper that the United States House of Representatives recognize and commend Lamar County Judge M.C. Superville, and County Commissioners Michael R. Blackburn, Rodney C. Pollard, Carl L. Steffey, and Jackie Wheeler for their vision in making this opportunity available to the citizens of Lamar County.

The acquisition of this facility by Lamar County is an excellent example of what can be accomplished when we all work together. I appreciate the commitment of the local citizens and the generous attitude of the United States Postal Service. Both were necessary to complete this project.

As a result of their efforts, the public has been well served.

REGARDING H.R. 5067, TO PROVIDE
HEALTH CARE COVERAGE FOR
CHILDREN AND PREGNANT
WOMEN FROM MICRONESIA WHO
RESIDE IN THE U.S.

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, Micronesians residing in the U.S. are classified as lawful non-immigrants and are unable to obtain federal health care services. They cannot obtain Medicaid benefits even though they are members of our local communities and pay taxes.

Citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palua have made sacrifices for the U.S. The U.S. tested a total of 67 atomic and hydrogen bombs between 1946 and 1958 at the Bikini and Enewetak atolls in the Marshall Islands. The effects of these tests are still felt throughout the region.

Additionally, the Compact of Free Association prevents other countries from entering into

military alliances with the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau. Such military alliances could threaten the security of our nation. Between 1918 and 1941, foreign powers did occupy these islands. And as history will recall, many World War II battles were fought in the islands fortified and occupied by Japan. The Compact prevents this from happening again.

In the Compact, the U.S. government promised to assist Micronesians in exchange for their continued sacrifices. The U.S. agreed to foster economic development and help these countries become self-sufficient.

This same treaty allows Micronesians to freely migrate to the U.S. According to the 2000 Census, 115,247 Micronesians are living in the U.S. Most Micronesians do not become citizens, yet they become members of our communities. They are here legally. They pay taxes, attend our schools, and join our military. They work with and for us. Nevertheless, the federal government denies Medicaid health care benefits to noncitizens and lawful non-immigrants.

My bill, H.R. 5067, will give Micronesian children and pregnant women legally residing in the U.S. access to Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). Micronesians should be covered because it is in the interest of our nation to improve the public's health, which includes basic health care for poor children and pregnant women regardless of their nationality or citizenship status.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 5067 and help the U.S. fulfill its commitment to our neighbors and coworkers from Micronesia. They made sacrifices to ensure the security of our nation. It is time for our nation to fulfill its promises.

FAITH UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to bear witness to the 100th Anniversary of the Faith United Methodist Church in Dickinson, Texas. This extraordinary religious community traces its roots back more than a century to the establishment of the Warren Chapel in the town of Dickinson in 1901. Six years later, the Methodist community in League City founded their own chapel in 1907. These two communities, separated by a mere seven miles shared both the trials and the joys of life together and in June of 1967, the two congregations merged to form the Faith United Methodist Church.

On September 7, this community will commemorate its Centennial with the unveiling of a Texas historical marker celebrating 100 years of faith and community. I ask you to join me in recognizing this remarkable congregation's faith and sense of community that has passed the test of time and remains a shining example of America's strength and unity.

PROTECT CONSUMERS' RIGHT TO
TAKE COMPANIES TO COURT
WHEN DISAGREEMENTS ARISE

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Consumer Fairness Act of 2002," a bill to address arbitration clauses that are unilaterally imposed on consumers as unfair and deceptive trade practices and prohibit their use in consumer transactions.

Increasingly, companies such as banks and credit card companies, computer makers, insurance firms and car dealers are requiring customers to waive their right to sue when a disagreement occurs. Furthermore, these mandatory arbitration clauses are usually not clearly disclosed in agreements and contracts.

Requiring consumers, as a mandatory condition of providing a service or selling a good, to waive his or her right to pursue a grievance through the United States justice system is problematic for several reasons.

Arbitration can cost more than pursuing a case in court, with fees that often run into the thousands of dollars.

Arbitration limits the evidence that can be used.

Arbitration usually does not allow for appeals.

To address these problems, this Act would prohibit companies from using clauses in contracts and sales agreements that require consumers to agree, in advance, to submit any disagreements to arbitrators. Such clauses ban consumers from suing a company and participating in class action lawsuits. This legislation protects consumers' right to sue and clarifies that consumers can choose to resolve their disputes with companies through arbitration.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this much-needed legislation for all consumers in America.

RECOGNIZING McQUADE
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize McQuade Children's Services, located in New Windsor, NY, for its dedicated service to special needs children of the Hudson Valley. On Sunday, July 21, McQuade Children's services celebrates its 140th birthday.

McQuade's service to Hudson Valley residents dates back to 1862, when it was founded as a home for orphaned or abandoned children. Established by the Newburgh Union Female Guardian Society as the "Home for the Friendless," it was renamed in 1945 to commemorate the life of Dr. Milton Ash McQuade.

Dr. McQuade was an ear, nose and throat specialist who himself was abandoned at a church doorstep as a baby and raised by the Reverend McQuade and his wife. Dr. McQuade emigrated from Canada to Newburgh, NY in 1914 to establish a medical prac-

tice and throughout the years, supported the Home and provided free medical care to the children. Upon his death in 1928, Dr. McQuade dedicated much of his estate to the Home, enabling it to continue to provide services throughout difficult times such as the Great Depression.

Today, McQuade Children's Services provides quality care in a variety of settings to 300 children and their families. Its mission, however, has remained one of providing an accepting, nurturing environment for children. Putting "Children First" is not just a pledge taken annually by staff, but a philosophy that is truly internalized by all those who help McQuade's succeed.

The services available to children are vast and varied, ranging from therapeutic residential care to special education. McQuade's facilities and programs include: a boys and girls Residential Treatment Center, the Kaplan School for special education, Diagnostic Assessment Centers, and community programs focused on family counseling and independent living skills. Teaching responsibility and imparting values to children, McQuade's staff works tirelessly to provide social, academic, physical and spiritual growth.

McQuade's numerous success stories are a testament to its importance to the Hudson Valley community. The McQuade staff and volunteers share an unparalleled commitment to improving the lives of children in need. Once again, I commend McQuade Children's Services for providing quality care to children for well over a century and I look forward to celebrating their 140th anniversary this coming Sunday, July 21, 2002.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1854) making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, the United States government has a history of leasing lands belonging to Indian tribes and individual Indians. The government has been receiving grazing, timber and mineral royalties from the lease of these lands—royalties that the government was supposed to hold in trust for the rightful owners of the lands.

Unfortunately, the United States government has admitted that it mismanaged these trust funds for decades and lost the money of our nation's first peoples. Federal courts have ruled that the government owes Indians an historical accounting of all Indian trust funds going back to the date the funds were deposited.

This bill includes provisions to restrict the ability of the Federal government to provide an accounting of Indian trust funds. The bill even presumes that all trust fund records prior to 1985 were correct. These provisions defy court decisions and have no place in an appropriations bill.

I urge my colleagues to strike these unjust provisions and let Native Americans know what happened to their money.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE
MARKET ACQUISITION DRUG
PRICE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicare Market Acquisition Drug Price Act of 2002. This bill would correct a long-standing and well-documented problem with the way Medicare pays for the few outpatient prescription drugs it covers today. This bill would save taxpayers billions of dollars, without compromising Medicare beneficiaries' access to cancer treatment or other services. Congress should enact this bill immediately.

This problem must be resolved—this year—whether or not we succeed in creating a new Medicare prescription drug benefit. Due to pharmaceutical industry efforts, this problem was not addressed in the prescription drug legislation recently introduced and passed by the House Republican leadership. Despite their neglect of the issue, I believe there is bipartisan consensus that Medicare should not continue to pay exorbitant prices for prescription drugs. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

Medicare currently pays for only a limited number of outpatient drugs, generally ones that a patient cannot self-administer, such as chemotherapy drugs. Medicare spends over \$5 billion every year on these drugs. Under current rules, Medicare vastly over-pays for these drugs, because it bases payments on the artificially high "average wholesale price" (AWP) reported by the drug's manufacturer—regardless of the actual price a provider pays for the drug. There is abundant evidence that drug manufacturers have boosted their own drug sales and increased their profits, at great taxpayer expense, by manipulating the AWP of their drugs. Simply put, drug manufacturers report inflated prices, sell providers the drugs for much less, and then encourage providers to bill Medicare for the maximum allowable amount—95 percent of the inflated AWP reported by the manufacturer.

This bill offers a straightforward solution to this problem. It would require Medicare payments to be based on the actual market prices at which manufacturers sell their drugs. This price, called the average acquisition price, would be verifiable. The Secretary would have the authority to audit drug companies' reports. Drug companies would be subject to steep fines for deliberately filing false or incomplete information.

Mr. Speaker, the current Medicare AWP rules are a sham and must be changed. Consider the following:

The General Accounting Office has described the AWP as "neither 'average' nor 'wholesale'; it is simply a number assigned by the product's manufacturer." The GAO found that Medicare's payments for physician-administered outpatient drugs were at least \$532 million higher than providers' potential acquisition costs in 2000. Similarly, the GAO found that Medicare paid at least \$483 million more

for supplier-billed drugs than suppliers' potential acquisition costs in 2000. Some drugs were available at prices averaging just 15 percent of the manufacturer's reported AWP, while Medicare continued to pay 95 percent of AWP.

The Office of the Inspector General at the Department of Health and Human Services found that Medicare could save \$761 million per year by paying the actual wholesale prices available to physicians and suppliers for just 24 of the outpatient drugs currently covered by Medicare.

Numerous states, consumer groups, and private health plans have sued drug manufacturers for fraudulently inflating Medicare drug prices.

These suits follow on the heels of a record Medicare and Medicaid fraud settlement by TAP Pharmaceutical Products. In October 2001, TAP pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiracy to violate federal law. TAP agreed to pay \$875 million—the largest criminal fine ever levied by the government for health care fraud—to settle the suit, in which the government alleged the company artificially inflated the AWP of the company's prostate cancer drug Lupron.

Drug manufacturers have resisted efforts to investigate this problem. For example, last summer the GAO continued its investigation into AWP on Congress' behalf and requested drug price information from many manufacturers. One pharmaceutical company, Pfizer, refused to comply with GAO's request until this January, when GAO subpoenaed the company's CEO, Henry McKinnell.

Mr. Speaker, the problem is well known. The solution is straightforward. Both the GAO and the OIG have recommended that we revise Medicare's drug payment policies to reflect actual market prices, accounting for rebates and other discounts available from manufacturers. That is exactly what this bill does.

Manufacturers would be required to report the actual average market acquisition prices for their drugs as a condition for Medicare coverage of those drugs. Each manufacturer would have to certify the accuracy of its reports and the Secretary of HHS would be empowered to audit price information to verify the accuracy of the reports. Drug manufacturers would be subject to unlimited civil monetary penalties for filing false reports and would be subject to a penalty of \$100,000 for each day they fail to provide timely information.

The bill is also carefully crafted to ensure that the reimbursement revisions will not adversely impact Medicare beneficiaries' access to care. First, to ensure these drugs are available in areas of the country where providers must purchase covered drugs at prices above the average, the actual reimbursement level to providers would be set 5 percent above the average acquisition price. Second, Medicare would pay dispensing fees to reflect differences in the costs of dispensing different drugs and biologics. Third, the bill would ensure continued access to cancer treatment. Oncologists have argued that inflated AWP reimbursements are necessary to compensate for the administration of cancer medicines. This bill would correct this anomaly by revising Medicare payments for oncology services to appropriately account for these indirect costs, in accordance with GAO recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that Congress will act to provide a meaningful Medicare pre-

scription drug benefit this year. On top of the many other serious concerns I have with the drug benefit passed by the Republican leadership, I am deeply disappointed that it did not address the abuses of the current AWP system. We must not shirk our responsibility to ensure that Medicare properly pays for the limited outpatient prescription drugs it already covers. There is no need for taxpayers to continue to fill pharmaceutical companies' coffers with the ill-gotten gains of the current AWP system. I hope all of my colleagues will join me in passing this important legislation.

HONORING HISPANIC CITIZENS—
9TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor local Hispanic citizens from the 9th District of Texas who were chosen for their work in the community. While the dedication of Hispanic leaders is well-known throughout the United States, local citizens, right here in the Southeast Gulf Coast region, are just as important to ensuring equal rights and economic progress for all Texans.

Last month I asked members of the communities in the 9th District to nominate individuals for my "Henry B. Gonzalez Latino Leadership Award," named in honor of the late Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez, that gives special recognition to those who have worked selflessly, often without recognition, and made contributions both in the Hispanic community and the broader society as well. Recipients were chosen because they embodied a giving and sharing spirit, and had made a contribution to our nation.

While their efforts may not make the headlines every day, their service and dedication to our country is nevertheless vital to our entire region. This region of Southeast Texas is not successful in spite of our diversity; we are successful because of it.

Please join me in recognizing and congratulating these leaders for their work and commitment to their communities and to Southeast Texas. It is leaders like these men and women that continue to be a source of pride for Texas. The winners of this years Henry B. Gonzalez Latino Leadership Award" are:

Alice Flores, Elias de la Cerda, Jr., Ruben F. DeHoyos, John J. DeLeon, Joe Escobedo, Jr., Ella Flores, Roberto C. Flores, Robert D. Gallegos, Tina Garcia, Manuel Guajardo, Manuel R. Gonzalez, Elida Saenz Matthews, Eugenia Rios, Elisa Vasquez, Gilbert Zamora, Jr., Manuel Urbina II, Gilbert Hinojosa, Joseph Cantu, Gregory Flores, Carlos Hernandez, and Jesus Abrego.

Mr. Speaker, the recipients of the "Henry B. Gonzalez" award are dedicated and hard-working individuals who have done so much for their neighbors and for this nation as a whole. Today, I stand to recognize their spirit and to say that I am honored to be their Representative.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC
TRANSIT**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit a statement made by Mrs. Faye Thompson of Wayne County, West Virginia before the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, Subcommittee on Housing and Transportation, on the importance of public transit. Mrs. Thompson is a member of the Wayne County, West Virginia Community Service Organization, Inc. Board of Directors.

Public transit is a vital transportation link for people in rural areas, who do not own their own cars, or cannot find someone to drive them to medical appointments, etc.

In her testimony, Mrs. Thompson told how she went to work as a social worker for the Department of Health and Human Services after her three sons became old enough to go to school. Mrs. Thompson worked with low-income families and said that "one of the biggest obstacles of obtaining services was the lack of transportation." During those years, Wayne County had no public transportation.

At the time, Mrs. Thompson had her own car, and was able to drive anywhere she wanted to go, at any time.

Later in life, Mrs. Thompson's husband passed away. Then she was told she needed to have both knees replaced. Her two older sons live out of state, and her youngest son worked full-time, and was unable to drive her to physical therapy sessions.

Suddenly, Mrs. Thompson realized she was no longer independent and that she was now one of the people who need public transportation. But unlike the earlier years, when she worked to help low-income families who had no access to public transportation, Wayne County now offered public transportation.

As Mrs. Thompson said, "Thanks to public transportation, I was able to obtain the medical services that I needed."

Mrs. Thompson was able to look at how tough it was, years ago, for low-income families in Wayne County to be without public transit, and look at how much easier it was for her, while in rehabilitation, to receive physical therapy because she could rely on public transit.

Mrs. Thompson noted that "Wayne X-Press Public Transit System in Wayne, West Virginia provides transportation services to people for medical appointments, to jobs, job interviews, job training, social activities, senior citizen centers, Adult Day treatment programs, general education training, parenting classes, etc."

She described public transit as "the lifeline for the public."

As a Member of Congress representing the Third Congressional District of West Virginia, I have been working to help low-income, rural West Virginians to enhance their quality of life by providing transportation to medical care, educational facilities and jobs.

Public transit helps to create and build jobs, which is a boost to the economy. We must maintain and expand public transit programs. When we reauthorize the surface transportation legislation in the 108th Congress, I will

work to continue to strengthen and expand public transit programs, to ensure "the lifeline for the public" continues.

FORT GAY, WEST VIRGINIA

July 16, 2002

UNITED STATES SENATE,

*Banking, Housing, and Urban Development,
Subcommittee on Housing and Transportation,
Washington, DC.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS: It is an honor to be with you here today to talk about something that is dear to my heart. First, let me tell you something about myself. My late husband and I raised three sons, and that was an experience in itself. After my children got into school, my husband who was employed by the Norfolk and Western Railroad went to work and I started back to school to become an elementary school teacher in a one room schoolhouse in rural Appalachia, West Virginia.

I saw the many challenges of the rural Appalachian people, so I changed careers and became a Social Worker for the Department of Health and Human Resources in rural West Virginia. Throughout my career, I worked with low income families and one of the biggest obstacles of obtaining services was the lack of transportation. At that time there was no public transportation in Wayne County. Throughout my twenty-two years in my career there was always a need for individuals to access, services. Throughout my life I have been a very independent person as you can see, raising a family, starting not just one career but two in my life, and having the privilege of having my own transportation. Most of us take for granted picking up our car keys, going out of the house, and going anywhere we want to go.

Even though I have always recognized the need for rural transportation. I never thought that it would be something that I would need. After my husband passed away, I lived alone in my home. I then downsized to an apartment. I was still able to go to my homemaker meetings, church activities, Board Member meetings, volunteer work, and continued to meet my friends for lunch and social activities. My physician informed me that I was going to have to have both of my knees replaced. He stated that after my surgery and rehabilitation that I would need to go to physical therapy three times a week for several weeks. My two eldest sons both live out of state and my youngest son works full-time, therefore was unable to take me to my therapy sessions. I then realized that I was one of the people who needed transportation. I was no longer independent and this was quite a shock to me. Thanks to Public Transportation I was able to obtain the medical services that I needed.

Being a member of Wayne County Community Service Organization, Inc. Board of Directors, I can sit here today in front of you and let you know how important the Public Transit System is to the people. How it enables them to access needed services. Wayne X-Press Public Transit System in Wayne, West Virginia provides transportation services to people for medical appointments, to jobs, job interviews, job training, social activities, senior citizen centers, Adult Day treatment programs, general education training, parenting classes, etc. I'm here today to ask you distinguished ladies and gentlemen to continue funding for Public Transit Systems. Why, because it is the lifeline for the public. So I invite all of you to Wayne County, West Virginia to "hop aboard" the Wayne X-Press.

FAYE THOMPSON

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1854) making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the Capps amendment to prohibit the use of funds for new oil drilling on 36 leases off the coast of California.

Oil spills would devastate the sensitive marine environment of California's coast. The Santa Barbara oil spill in 1969 dumped over four million gallons of oil into the sea, killed thousands of animals, blackened beaches and decimated the local marine environment. The coast took years to recover.

California's economy depends upon the health of its coasts. Tourism brings in nearly \$30 billion a year to our state, and the fishing industry is also important to our economy. California cannot afford the risks of offshore oil drilling.

The people of California are strongly opposed to offshore oil drilling. Leases off the coasts of Florida, Alaska and North Carolina have already been terminated. It is time to terminate the California leases as well and respect the will of California's people.

I urge my colleagues to support the Capps amendment.

**ARGENTINA MUST TAKE ACTION
AGAINST TERRORISTS WHO
CARRIED OUT THE 1994 AMIA BOMBING****TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, eight years ago today—on July 18, 1994, a car bomb exploded at the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, leaving eighty-five people dead and leveling the building. Now, eight years later, the trial of a handful of suspected accessories to the crime has only barely begun, and the masterminds behind the horrific attack are still unidentified and at-large.

While we recognize that Argentina is currently struggling with serious political and economic crises, the government of President Duhalde must remain focused on the investigation of the AMIA bombing and the trial of the accused. The resolution of this case is critical to demonstrate that Argentine society fully embraces the rule of law and is moving toward the fulfillment of justice. The AMIA case presents Argentina with the opportunity to send a message to the world that terrorism does not pay and that known terrorists will be prosecuted.

Mr. Speaker, the trial has been long in coming and has faced many obstacles, some of which Fernando de la Rúa and current President Eduardo Duhalde have addressed. There

is speculation about why the case was not tried and closed years ago.

First, fifteen of the twenty suspects are former Buenos Aires police officers who have been linked to a ring of automobile thieves. Although these are not the individuals who ordered and carried out the attacks, they may have supplied the vehicle used for the bombing, knowing that it was to be used in an attack on the Jewish Community Center. The most prominent of these suspects are former senior police commander Juan Jose Rebelli and local stolen-car dealer Alberto Telleldin. Both were formally charged with multiple homicides in July 1999 in connection to the bombing and are currently standing trial.

Second, the physical evidence from the bombing was handled extremely poorly. Most of the evidence from the crime scene, including personal identification and the remains of the victims, was stuffed haphazardly into bags and abandoned at an open dump for three years before being tossed into the Rio de la Plata. One investigator estimates that less than five percent of the material evidence remains today. Also, a renovation project to make the courtroom large enough to accommodate the anticipated press consumed many months.

After the public trial began on September 24, 2001, the prosecution's case has plodded through a seemingly interminable procession of witnesses. Over 1500 witnesses were called to testify in the trial. Yet, there still has been no clear identification of those responsible for the AMIA bombing. The main question of the trial remains whether the police who were involved with selling the vehicle knew that it would be used for the bombing. So far, the police have denied all charges of wrongdoing.

A number of other anti-Semitic incidents since the 1994 bombing indicate the importance of a prompt and decisive resolution in the AMIA bombing case. After the AMIA Jewish community center was rebuilt, several telephoned bomb threats against the new building, as well as against a Jewish country club and a Jewish theater, have been received. Once again, no one has claimed responsibility, no evidence has been found, and the Argentine authorities have not produced results from their formal investigations into these bomb threats. In August 1999, two Jewish families were threatened with unidentified bomb threats. One month later, unidentified individuals fired gun shots at a Jewish school. There have been no developments in the investigations of either of these cases as well.

Mr. Speaker, Argentina faces numerous challenges today, including pursuing both the domestic and international dimensions of the AMIA bombing case. Some of these investigative leads may take Argentine prosecutors to the highest reaches of their society and to state sponsors of terrorism in the Middle East. We in the United States Congress must continue to demonstrate our support for the efforts of non-governmental organizations, such as B'nai B'rith, which are actively working to bring complete closure to the AMIA bombing and other cases of anti-Semitism.

Mr. Speaker, resolution of the AMIA bombing is an integral part of our fight against terrorism. It is essential that the government of Argentina know and understand that the United States government continues to expect appropriate action against all of those who

were responsible for perpetrating this outrageous crime.

CONTINUING CRISIS IN FOSTER CARE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today the ACLU and several child advocacy groups brought a suit requesting the court to hold accountable those county and state officials responsible for oversight of California's foster care system. Plaintiffs charged that negligence, mismanagement, and abuse and neglect of children are routinely committed by the very state agency charged with protecting children and ensuring their safety and well-being.

In the following article in today's Los Angeles Times, one of the plaintiffs reports that the suit will demand all appropriate mental health services; multidisciplinary assessments of the needs of each child; case plans; and providers to ensure that no child will be neglected. Judging from recent news reports, this same lawsuit could be brought against most state child welfare agencies.

The federal child welfare law that I authored in 1980 requires States to comply with a number of core requirements intended to protect children placed in foster care as a condition of receiving Federal foster care funds. Yet twenty years after enactment of P.L. 96-272, many of the same shortcomings as prompted the passage of the law are affecting hundreds of thousands of children in foster care placements, raising serious questions about the diligence of the states and the federal government in enforcing the law and protecting the children.

The situation described in the Times article is not unique to California, which has had a very troubled history in foster care for decades. In Florida, in the District of Columbia, in New York, and in many other jurisdictions, allegations about inappropriate services, improper placements, inadequate staff training and compensation coupled with massive case-loads and staff turnover are commonplace. And yet the Congress has not taken a broad look at how best to assist in the improvement of accountability and services in the nation's foster care system.

The time has come for a broad review that brings together experts and practitioners and advocates to help shape a thoughtful critique of current practice and make recommendations for the federal, state and local governments. This is not only a family crisis and a children's crisis; it is a fiscal crisis, because we are spending billions of dollars a year on a system that, despite efforts at reform, continues to fail the children in its custody. The article follows:

[From the Los Angeles Times, July 18, 2002]

A FOSTER-CARE TRAGEDY WORTHY OF
DICKENS

(By Lew Hollman)

Los Angeles has a foster-care system driven by what is available, not what is needed. Children receive too few services too late. Thousands are shuttled to ineffective and expensive institutional care. They are poorly

monitored, with no consistent, individualized care. Not surprisingly, many deteriorate in county care, populating our jails, homeless shelters and mental wards after they "age out" of a failed system. Many never overcome the effects of the abuse or neglect they have suffered.

At a time when funds for children's services are ever more scarce, we are paying more for less in terms of healthy outcomes. Millions of federal dollars are at risk because of our inability to meet reasonable guidelines for stable placements—through family reunification, adoption or long-term foster care. More important, the children whom the system is intended to protect are being irreparably harmed.

This is not a problem that can be solved simply by changing the person at the top, as L.A. County has done twice in recent years. It requires a philosophical change at all levels—from a system based on what services are available to a system based on earlier intervention and individualized needs.

A suit will be filed today on behalf of foster children put at risk by a failed system. It will demand a wider array of mental health services available under Medi-Cal; multidisciplinary assessments of the needs of each child based on all relevant information; continuity in services and plans for each child; and the development of services and providers to ensure that no child will be rejected.

MacLaren Children's Center in El Monte, the county's emergency shelter for abused and neglected children, is an apt symbol of our failed system. Designated a short-term shelter, it has become instead the county's warehouse for the unwanted. Once a home for wayward girls, it retains its foreboding atmosphere. Such control as exists—in many instances, poor management has led to children being abused, often by other residents—is prison-like.

Some MacLaren residents languish for months beyond the ostensible 30-day limit. Many more are constantly "recycled" as foster homes reject them, adding to the trauma that brought the children to the county's care. One plaintiff, removed from her home as a result of sexual and physical abuse by her stepfather, was moved by the county 28 times between the ages of 9 and 13. Another is in a locked facility because of the healthy impulse to find a better life elsewhere. In less than three years, she was moved 25 times.

When Dickensian stories like these are related to the uninformed, they are greeted with incredulity. It is often assumed that lack of resources must be the problem. Of course, no one desires these rootless sojourns through impersonal care. And our society could, no doubt, better invest in the needs of its children. But lack of money is not at the root of these problems.

Inertia and lack of accountability are the culprits. The county has become increasingly defensive about releasing cost estimates.

According to a recently released Los Angeles Grand Jury report, however, costs during the 2001-2002 fiscal year at MacLaren approximated \$757 per day for each child—more than \$276,000 per year. Group-care facilities, recognized as contrary to the interests of most children, were estimated to cost about \$33,000 annually per child five years ago. By contrast, children at risk who can be assisted without removal from the home costs less than \$5,000 a year, and foster home and kinship placements less than \$10,000 a year.

Medi-Cal, through the early and periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment program and other federal programs, can pay for many of the intensive services that children need. True case management would ensure

the effective use of such services to enable children to remain in—or quickly return to—their homes, be freed for adoption or settled in long-term foster care.

The county recognizes the penny-wise, pound-foolish nature of the system. In addition to grand jury reports, state audits, independent evaluations and testimony before the Board of Supervisors, it brought its own expert in to evaluate and make recommendations in 1998.

Dr. Robert F. Cole, an independent expert nationally recognized for his work with disturbed children, centered his recommendations on an “integrated delivery system,” such as “wrap-around” care, that would coordinate services and deliver them in a family-like environment, or the child’s home, whenever possible.

A successfully tested method, the wrap-around concept is used in other counties in

California and in other states, where it has reduced costs and improved the outcomes of children in foster care. The goal is for case-workers, therapists, health providers and schools to work together to ensure children prompt and stable placements and the early development of a long-term plan to see children reunited with their families, adopted or placed in long-term foster care.

Two years after his initial report, Cole praised the county for being poised to implement coordinated services for foster children. But in that time, the county had contracted with only two providers for wrap-around care, serving two children each. Although additional foster care providers have been found since 2000, wrap-around care and other types of intensive care are virtually unavailable in a system providing services to more than 50,000 children year, with slightly less than 38,000 in county custody. Half of

those in custody are estimated to have serious emotional problems. Those problems will become increasingly difficult and expensive to treat if effective care is not provided.

The U.S. Supreme Court has held that due process under the Constitution requires the government to protect from harm any child it takes into its custody.

The Constitution is violated when children deteriorated in county care or are subjected to policies—such as 25 different placements in less than three years—that no disinterested professional would countenance. Federal Medicaid laws are broken when needed medical services for children are not provided.

The lawsuit to be filed today will ask the court to cut the knot of inertia and hold accountable the county and the state officials responsible for oversight.