

for South Asia, Christina Rocca, in a speech last month at the American Enterprise Institute, said that 'Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's "personal commitment to making them [the elections] transparent and open" was a critical factor in moving the democratic process forward.'

Ambassador Blackwill did not mince words when it came to describing the guerrillas that used violence in an effort to disrupt the elections, calling them "terrorists." "Terrorists can call themselves many different things at different places," our Ambassador said. "Sometimes they are called freedom fighters. Any person who kills civilians is a terrorist."

Mr. Speaker, America knows how it feels to be a democracy targeted by terrorists. India has for many years endured the same experience. In fact, the terrorist elements targeting India in Kashmir have links to the same Al Qaeda terrorist network that attacked America on 9/11 and was apparently responsible for the bombing in Indonesia last month. I have spoken out on several occasions this year about the terrorist attacks against Kashmiri civilians, and I have urged the leaders of Pakistan to stop allowing their country to be used as a base for terrorist training camps and extremist religious clerics who foment hate against both India and America.

Unfortunately, the opposite may be happening. On November 12, the Orlando Sentinel, and other publications, reported that, "U.S. intelligence says most of al-Qaeda's surviving leaders have relocated to Pakistan." The newspaper noted that U.S. forces cannot operate in Pakistan as they have in Afghanistan, due to concerns that an American military presence would anger Pakistan. Therefore, we must press President Musharraf to take control of this situation.

Assistant Secretary Rocca stated in her speech that the U.S. and India are allies in the struggle against terrorism, saying, "Counterterrorism cooperation is maturing rapidly, including intelligence sharing, training, finance and antimoney laundering cooperation, improving border security, fighting cyberterrorism and increasing mutual legal assistance." In fact, a Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between the U.S. and India is awaiting approval by the full Senate, having been approved by the Foreign Relations Committee in the Other Body.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote from President Bush in his remarks welcoming Prime Minister Vajpayee to Washington on November 9, 2001. "My Administration is committed to developing a fundamentally different relationship with India, one based upon trust, one based upon mutual values. After all, the Prime Minister leads a nation that is the largest democratic nation in the world." I appreciate the commitment of our President, and I look forward to working with the Administration as the United States continues to improve and expand our relationship with India to the benefit of the people of both of our great nations.

I look forward to working with the Republican leadership and President George W. Bush to shape a new relationship between the U.S. and India in the 108th Congress.

HONORING THOMAS J. SCHILTGEN

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud to rise today to honor Mr. Thomas J. Schiltgen, District Director of the U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service Office in Los Angeles, who will be retiring in December 2002 after 27 years of service to America's immigrant community.

Mr. Schiltgen is a very special individual, and my district is indebted to his unwavering passion and dedication for the immigrant community endeavoring to become U.S. citizens. The 605 Citizenship Project, a video series designed to help educate immigrants to become U.S. citizens, would not have been so successful if it were not for his willingness to personally work in our communities and go beyond the call of duty to provide comfort and patience to families often intimidated by the intricacies of the naturalization process. His willingness to educate and reach out to underserved communities puts him in a league of his own. He has responded to last minute calls of assistance to matters vital to my community's well being, and each time he has cooperated and provided much needed help.

In addition to his community involvement, Mr. Schiltgen has exercised outstanding management skills in the Los Angeles district I.N.S. office. He has achieved a dramatic reduction in the huge backlog of pending applications for naturalization. Today, citizenship cases in Los Angeles are processed in six to eight months, compared to an average of 24 months prior to his arrival. His energy and vision have made him one of the agency's most respected and valued leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in saluting Mr. Thomas J. Schiltgen for his understanding leadership and devotion to his work. His devoted commitment to others has earned him praise from the immigrant community, I.N.S. employees, community leaders and advocates who have benefited from his commitment to public service. On the occasion of his retirement, we heartedly congratulate him on his extremely successful career, wish him much success on his future endeavors and thank him greatly for his outstanding efforts to make a difference in the lives and futures of many America's new citizens.

CELEBRATING ALBERT
BURSTEIN'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary man and a great friend of mine—Albert Burstein, who turns 80 years-old on November 22.

Whether it is through his work as partner of his own law firm, his efforts throughout his 10 years as a member of the New Jersey General Assembly to improve our education system and our quality of life as a whole, his many roles in special posts and appointments throughout New Jersey aimed at raising our

levels of education and making our society more just, or in his role as the loving husband of Ruth and father of three terrific children, Jeffrey, Diane, and Laura, Al Burstein is a man of great principle. He represents the best of New Jersey and deserves our highest level of praise.

I have had the wonderful opportunity to get to know Al Burstein very well. I first met him after graduating from law school and serving as the campaign coordinator in his race for the New Jersey General Assembly. In between stuffing envelopes, running phone banks, and helping with general campaign tasks, I got to see a man of the highest integrity in action working to make New Jersey a better place. In 1978, Al Burstein ran for the Ninth Congressional District of New Jersey, the seat which I now hold. Although he was not elected, Al Burstein always took the high road in the campaign and never lost focus of his goal of improving the lives of New Jersey residents.

I have great and abiding affection and respect for Al Burstein and I wish him the very best as he celebrates his 80th birthday later this month. I know that I join with his family and his many friends and coworkers in wishing him a year filled with happiness, good health, joyful moments, and time for reflection on all of his life's great accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would allow states with waivers under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, that are set to expire in the next calendar year, to voluntarily extend the length of those waivers for an additional year.

As my colleagues know, the TANF program has been very successful in helping millions of Americans get through difficult times. It is important that Congress build on the success of TANF and reauthorize this program with important changes.

However, as my colleagues know, we have reached the close of the 107th Congress, and we have yet to complete action on a TANF reauthorization bill. TANF expired on September 30 of this year and has thus far been funded under continuing resolutions.

I seek not to criticize one party or another or one chamber of Congress or the other for this delay. The issues at heart in this debate are important and decisions should not be made in haste. However, inaction on TANF reauthorization this year has created the potential that several states will be unfairly penalized and my constituents, and those of many other Members, will pay a steep price.

Prior to 1996, welfare policy in the United States was administered through the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program. Under this program the Secretary of Health and Human Services had the authority to grant waivers to states to allow them to create innovative welfare programs that met the goals of welfare but not the specific requirements of AFDC.

In the early 1990's, as it became clear that AFDC was failing to meet its goal of helping