upon to more fully prepare our nation's children for school. We are providing $6.667 billion for this program. At this funding level, we anticipate that program may serve 915,000 children.

LABOR

Keeping in mind our nation's current economic situation, the bill focuses increases within the Department of Labor account on dislocated workers, providing an additional $113 million above fiscal year 2002. With this increase, local workforce development boards will receive a total of $1.4 billion for re-employment assistance to these dislocated workers.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker, the numbers before us represent our best efforts at crafting this bill. It focuses our priorities on protecting our nation against bioterrorism, providing assistance to dislocated workers and investing in our future by funding important education programs. The numbers are subject to change as we proceed to work both here in the House and together with the other body to produce a final bill.

AN ARIZONA PUBLIC POWER UTILITY TURNS 100

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I call attention today to an Arizona institution that has risen from dusty frontier beginnings to become one of the nation's most successful public power companies. On Feb. 7, 2003, the Salt River River Project, generally known as SRP, will mark the centennial of its incorporation the oldest multi-purpose reclamation project in the nation.

On rivers east and north of Phoenix, SRP maintains a system of six large dams and reservoirs essential to maintaining central Arizona's economy. The company also operates a generation and transmission system that provides electricity to more than 60 percent of businesses, industries and residents of the greater Phoenix metropolitan area.

One could say much of SRP's one hundred-year history—how it began when pioneering settlers mortgaged their farms and lands for a federal loan to build Theodore Roosevelt Dam on the Salt River; how SRP paved the way for expanded water storage projects to quench central Arizona's thirst; how SRP got into the power business; and how it grew from hydropower provider to Arizona's copper mines to the third largest public power utility in the U.S.

While these are noteworthy achievements, SRP deserves further note for the community-minded spirit and it has continued to show since the days when a partnership between small desert farm communities led to the building of Roosevelt Dam.

Many times in recent years the company's employees have been recognized locally and nationally for their spirit of volunteerism and generosity. They have led in fundraising for the United Way and have contributed time to many good causes, including litter clean-ups, school mentoring, environmental teaching, meal service at homeless shelters, Special Olympic programs, summer camps for youths—the list is long.

In short, one could say that the community partnerships that led to SRP's formation a century ago have instilled in the company an ongoing commitment to community service. And, while SRP in virtually every respect must operate by the same competitive standards as private industry, it has not forgotten the meaning of the word ''public'' as a public power and water provider.

Mr. Speaker, I wish SRP a bright future of continuing good service in the year of its centennial.

HONORING ALBERTSONS

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate Albertsons Corporation for receiving the State Chairman Award from the Employer Support for Guard and Reserve.

Who puts their lives on the line for us? Who provides the combat ready forces that will help protect our national security interests? With the support of their employers, members of the National Guard and Reserve are there when we need them.

The National Guard and Reserve provide half of our nation's uniformed military forces. In fact, some military skills are found only in the Reserve components. The Secretary of Defense will call Reserve forces to serve along side their Active duty counterparts anytime the United States is conducting a significant military operation.

Now, more than ever, we as a nation are relying on our Reserve Members. Because they are Reserve and this is not their regular, full-time job, it is essential that employers support them. That's why I am so proud of Albertsons.

Albertsons has gone beyond the letter and the spirit of the law. After September 11th terrorist attacks, Albertsons implemented an enhanced military leave policy. Albertsons now provides wage differentials; continued health care coverage and retirement plan participation. Albertsons even set up a ''hot line'' to support impacted employees and their families. The company is a leader in reinforcing and enhancing its corporate policies in support of National Guard activities.

Because of this voluntary, proactive action that Albertsons took to assist our Reserve, they are receiving the State Chairman Award. This award is presented on behalf of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs in recognizing ''outstanding'' contributions in support of Reserve Forces made by individuals, organizations or employers. Each award signifies extraordinary endowments that materially affect the Reserves.

Albertsons deserves this award and I'm proud to acknowledge them for receiving it. Thank you, Albertsons, for supporting your country in such a patriotic manner.

THE SECOND AMENDMENT PROTECTION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to restore the right the founding fathers saw as ''the guarantee of every other right'' by introducing the Second Amendment Protection Act. This legislation reverses the steady erosion of the right to keep and bear arms by repealing unconstitutional laws which allow power-hungry federal bureaucrats to restrict the rights of law-abiding gun owners.

Specifically, my legislation repeals the five-day waiting period and the ''instant'' background check, which enable the Federal Government to compile a database of every gun owner in America. My legislation also repeals the misnamed ban on ''semi-automatic'' weapons which bans entire class of firearms for no conceivable reason beside the desire of demagogic politicians to appear ''tough on crime.'' Finally, my bill amends the Gun Control Act of 1968 by deleting the sporting purposes'' test, which allows the Treasury Secretary to infringe on second amendment rights by classifying a firearm (handgun, rifle, shotgun) as a ''destructive device'' simply because the Secretary believes the gun to be ''non-sporting.''

Thomas Jefferson said ''The constitutions of most of our States assert that all power is inherent in the people; . . . that it is their right and duty to be at all times armed.'' Jefferson, and all of the Founders, would be horrified by the proliferation of unconstitutional legislation which prevent law-abiding Americans from exercising their ''right and duty,'' to keep and bear arms. I hope my colleagues will join me in upholding the Founders' vision a free society by cosponsoring the Second Amendment Restoration Act.

A BILL TO REAUTHORIZE THE UNITED STATES PEACE CORPS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I ask permission to revise and extend my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure and the honor today of introducing a bill which will reauthorize the United States Peace Corps. I served in the Peace Corps for two years, from 1964–66, in Colombia and it inspired me to devote my life to public service. With this bill, over 14,000 Americans will be given the chance to have the same inspiration.

This bill is long in the making. We in Congress have been advocating the increase and strengthening of the Peace Corps for a long time. The goal of increasing the Peace Corps to 10,000 volunteers was announced by President Ronald Reagan in 1986. It was echoed by President Clinton in 1992. Finally, President George W. Bush announced in his State of Union address last year, his commitment to double the number of Peace Corps volunteers in five years. Last year, following the President's statement, I introduced a bill, which would help fulfill this vision for the Peace Corps. The same bill was introduced in the Senate, where it was ultimately passed by unanimous consent.

The bill I am introducing today is essentially the same bill that was passed by the Senate:

It doubles the number of volunteers in five years;

It restates the independence of the Peace Corps;