

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH OF CLEVELAND, OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and celebration of the Sesquicentennial celebration of St. Patrick's Church, one of Cleveland's foremost Catholic congregations. During its tenure, St. Patrick's has served as a foundation of faith and service for the religious community of our Ohio City neighborhood, and far beyond.

Irish immigrants founded St. Patrick's Parish on Franklin Street in 1853. The church was also home to the first Ursuline Community in Cleveland. In 1871, the cornerstone for a new church was laid on Bridge Avenue. A famine struck that year, which halted construction. Construction resumed, yet it was arduous and long. For two years, parishioners journeyed to Sandusky to obtain free quarry stone and deliver it back to the church site. Following six years of toil, focus and commitment, the new church was opened during the summer of 1877.

Since that time, St. Patrick's Church has stood as a monument of faith, hope and support for immigrants and generations of their descendants. Although the first wave of parishioners were mainly of Irish heritage, today, the fabric of St. Patrick's reflects a colorful blend of citizens descendant from all areas of the world.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in tribute to and commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of St. Patrick's Church in Cleveland. St. Patrick's Church stands as more than a stately and vital historical structure; rather, the leaders and members of this parish, past and present, reflect a lasting monument of faith and hope that has sustained our families, our neighborhoods, our cities and our nation, for more than a century.

THE WRONG WORDS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article to be included in the RECORD.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 30, 2003]

WHAT THE WORLD HEARS WHEN THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS; THE WRONG WORDS

(By Abdel Monem Said)

Probably no area of the world had a keener interest in President Bush's address on Tuesday night than the Middle East. And probably nowhere will there be greater disappointment. People in moderate Arab states will conclude that the president is

woefully misguided in his approach to the region's troubles.

First, the American government seems to have divided the Middle East into a set of separate problems, each in its own little box: Iraq, Iran, the Palestinians and the Israelis, fundamentalism, terrorism. To an Arab, these are all related issues. The United States should concentrate on the problem whose resolution would, ultimately, solve all the other problems. That problem isn't Iraq. In fact, tackling Iraq will worsen the situation in the Middle East. It is the Palestinian question whose resolution has the best potential for a positive impact on the region and beyond. Unfortunately, it received only a passing reference in the president's speech.

Second, Arabs do not agree with the rosy American view of an invasion of Iraq. Mr. Bush seems to believe that the Iraqi people will look at American soldiers as liberators. In three or four weeks Saddam Hussein and his cronies will be toppled. In a year or so, Iraq will be a shining example of a democratic and prosperous country.

Arabs have a drastically different view. Some Iraqis will look at Americans as new colonialists. Various Iraqi factions and ethnic groups will take the chance to settle old scores. Iraq will descend into chaos. Turkey and Iran will interfere. The fragile countries of the eastern Mediterranean and the Gulf will suffer. The Arab-Israeli conflict will become increasingly volatile as violence and fundamentalism cross national borders.

Third, Mr. Bush sees the war on Iraq as part of the global war against terrorism. In the absence of clear evidence of links between Saddam Hussein and Al Qaeda, Arabs see the Iraq campaign as a deviation and distraction from the real fight. Iraq, now greatly weakened, is incapable of threatening its neighbors. Terrorism remains a greater threat. By going after Iraq, the United States is taking the easy way out: a classic war where it can find a capital to bomb, a regime to overthrow and weapons to dismantle. The war on terrorism is a completely different one, with political and socioeconomic dimensions that call for patience and agonizing time.

The historical bond between the United States and the moderate Arab states and mainstream Arabs in general contributed to the stability of the Middle East. For half a century, the bond worked well—to thwart Communist expansion in the cold war, to contain the waves of Iranian Islamic revolution and to end in 1991 Saddam Hussein's radical and regional ambitions. Now, it seems for the Arabs, the major force for instability in the region is the United States itself, which is moving militarily to Iraq, ignoring the Arab-Israeli peace process, giving Ariel Sharon a free hand in Israel, and insinuating a radical program for change in the region without building strategic understanding for it.

REMEMBERING JOHN FERDINANDI, JR.

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a resident of my district

who has made an impact on me, my staff, as well as the city of Fresno. His name was John Ferdinandi, Jr.

John was born in Rochester, NY, the son of Italian Immigrants. In 1945, he and his family moved to Fresno, CA where John attended San Joaquin Memorial High School, Fresno City College, and California State University, Fresno, then known as Fresno State. He served for four years in the Air Force and married his wife Sally in 1952. He returned to Fresno in 1954.

After thirty years of family and individual business, John retired, but found retirement wasn't his strong suit. He began a new career as a Property Manager and worked from 1989 to 1999, where his last assignment was in Santa Cruz, CA. John retired again in 1999, when he and his wife, Sally, decided to return home to Fresno where their children and family live.

In September 1999, when a seven freight car derailment occurred on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe tracks near the west end of Browning, John took up the challenge to get those tracks moved, which had been talked about for 83 years.

John put together a Board of Directors of community residents, secured over 42 supporting agencies, political representatives, businesses, individuals and petitioners now totaling over 6,000 supporters of rail consolidation. On January 14th, 2002, Fresno Mayor Alan Autry appointed John to head up his Mayor's Fresno Rail Consolidation Task Force.

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors appointed John to be the county's representative on the Fresno County Council of Governments Rail Committee. John also was Chairman of the Mayor's Downtown Revitalization 3RC Committee (Research, Review & Recommendation). He was working to revitalize Downtown Fresno.

John was a loving man who liked to help out at church, enjoyed playing charades, loved to sail and collect lighthouse replicas. He enjoyed fragrant flowers and high school father-daughter dances. Additionally, my staff and I had the pleasure of working with John's granddaughter, Sadie, for four years. John passed away of cancer on January 26, 2003. He will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember John Ferdinandi and all of his efforts working on the Fresno Area Rail Consolidation. I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering John Ferdinandi.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "BABES OF 1916" SENIOR CITIZENS SOFTBALL LEAGUE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition and celebration of the Twentieth

• 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.

Anniversary of the Babes of 1916 Senior Citizens Softball League, formed in 1983. I also stand in honor of the officers of the League: Gil Novak, Nick Gavanditti, Gus Bene and Paul Ristau, and I honor the members of the League who remain forever young, with a clear understanding that one is never too old to step up to the plate.

Over the years, the League has grown from thirty-one players to over one hundred and fifty. Every summer, the teams in the League play at well-attended events in ballparks across the county. Over the past twenty years, teams within the League have won several local and national championships, including their regular participation in the Senior Softball World Series.

The League members' sincere love and enthusiasm for life is clearly reflected in their love for the game—in every calculated pitch, in every outfield catch, in every throw to first, and in every swing of the bat. The players also extend their spirit and energy across our community, as they consistently donate their time to play for charitable and civic events.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor, tribute, and celebration of the past and present leaders of the Babes of 1916 Senior Citizens Softball League, for their twenty years of uplifting our hearts and spirits with their great affection for America's favorite pastime. The players and leaders of the League are the guardians of the most beloved and historic game in American history, and because of them, our seniors have the opportunity to still experience the joy of fielding a ground ball, hitting the winning run, teamwork, and camaraderie. The Babes of 1916 Senior Citizens Softball League have given its youthful ballplayers much more than the love of the game. They've given seniors the chance to play at the ballpark, inspiring cherished moments and creating memories that reach back to childhood—from the early innings of their youth—to the bottom of the ninth, two down, tie score, bases loaded. Batter up.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DON PICKINPAUGH, MEMBER OF THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP HEALTH CARE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Don Pickinpaugh's years of service to the Board of Directors of the Washington Township Health Care District. Mr. Pickinpaugh passed away on February 6, 2003 of heart failure at Washington Hospital.

The longest serving member of the hospital's Board of Directors, Mr. Pickinpaugh was first elected to the Board in 1976. He was elected Board president five times during his 27-year tenure, most recently in 2002.

During his time on the Board, Mr. Pickinpaugh provided leadership on many projects, but most notable are his work on the acquisition of Washington West in 1997 and the renovation of the hospital's sixth floor in 2002. This renovation added more than 29 beds to the hospital's capacity.

Mr. Pickinpaugh's interest in health care developed when he served as a Navy chief hos-

pital corpsman. While in the Navy, he supervised the operations of an emergency room at a major Naval hospital and served as a chief laboratory and blood bank technician.

Deeply involved in the community, Mr. Pickinpaugh was a long-time real estate broker in the Fremont area, and was actively involved in the Boy Scouts, Alameda County's Highland Hospital Citizen's Committee, and the Alameda County Tax Assessment Appeals Board. He was also a reading mentor at a Fremont Elementary School.

I send heartfelt sympathies to Don Pickinpaugh's family, and I join his colleagues in mourning the loss of this true community activist.

REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE WALTER J. KRASNIEWSKI

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the day after Christmas 2002, The Honorable Walter J. Krasniewski passed from this life at the age of 73 years. He was surrounded by his family.

Judge Krasniewski served the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in the Northern District of Ohio for 32 years, retiring in 1997. The author of more than 500 legal opinions, during his tenure many of his opinions established case law for the Sixth Circuit. At his retirement before a packed courtroom of judges, attorneys, family and friends there to pay him tribute, Judge Krasniewski was recognized as one of the ten longest-serving judges in U.S. history. A dedicated promoter of the noble profession of the law, Judge Krasniewski was mentor to many people he encouraged in the pursuit of a law career.

Walter Krasniewski graduated from Xavier University, then obtained his law degree from the University of Toledo. After a time in private practice, he was employed by the State of Ohio as an assistant attorney. In 1963, he was appointed by Attorney General Robert Kennedy as an assistant U.S. attorney. He began his long career as a bankruptcy court judge in 1965.

Devoted to his family, Judge Krasniewski also paid careful attention to his community. He was involved in many civic activities and fraternal organizations. His thoughtful countenance was as well known to his associates as it was to those who appeared in his courtroom. Always a gentleman, he was also a true statesman.

Walter Krasniewski was a man committed to family, his faith, his profession, and his country. Truly we will miss this man of vision and integrity. Our heartfelt sympathy to his wife of 45 years, Mary Lou, his children Linda, Leslie, Laurie, and Lawrence, his brothers John and William, his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING THE 92ND BIRTHDAY OF RONALD REAGAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor President Ronald Reagan on his 92nd Birthday. He is a great man and was a wonderful president. President Reagan stimulated economic growth, curbed inflation, increased employment, and strengthened our national defense. He cut taxes and government expenditures. It was during his term in office as President, the United States enjoyed its longest recorded period of peacetime prosperity without recession or depression. President Reagan sought to increase defense spending, but also wanted to improve relations with the Soviet Union.

Overall, the Reagan years saw a restoration of prosperity, and the goal of peace through strength seemed to be within grasp.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor President Reagan and wish him a Happy 92nd Birthday. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing President Reagan more years of good health.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF EDWARD E. KOTECKI, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Edward E. Kotecki, Jr., beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother and friend to many.

As the retired CEO of century-old Kotecki Monuments of Cleveland, a company founded in 1896 by his grandfather, Mr. Kotecki combined his sharp business abilities with his great artistic talents to create exquisite, critically acclaimed shrines and sculptures displayed in churches, religious centers and cemeteries in Cleveland, and around the world.

With a commitment to the highest level of artistry, Mr. Kotecki traveled in search of the finest master sculptors. His search took him to Italy, Poland and Romania, and he personally sponsored each artist during their stay in the United States. Additionally, Mr. Kotecki blazed the trail for a new process of creating sculptures. From his European counterparts, Mr. Kotecki introduced to America a sculpting machine that created three-dimensional sculptures in a fraction of the time it would normally take.

During his tenure, Kotecki Monuments created a symphony of granite along the terrace of the Cleveland Museum of Art; assisted in the polishing of the Hubble Telescope; and worked alongside Cleveland steel mills in fabricating granite skid caps. Moreover, Mr. Kotecki consistently displayed a generous spirit and kind heart. He directed the Cleveland Police Officers Peace Memorial, and had the names of fallen officers inscribed at no charge to families. Additionally, Mr. Kotecki regularly donated labor and materials for the restoration of damaged Cleveland cemetery monuments.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Edward E. Kotecki, Jr.—business leader, beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and friend and mentor to many. Although Mr. Kotecki will be deeply missed, his vision, life and legacy will live on forever, like the granite angel whose wings rise forever against the Cleveland sky.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SAFE
NURSING AND PATIENT CARE ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Safe Nursing and Patient Act of 2003 with Rep. STEVEN LATOURETTE and more than 40 of our colleagues. Assuring quality medical care and addressing our nursing shortage should not divide us on partisan lines. That's why I'm especially pleased that the bill we're introducing today has support from Democrats and Republicans alike. Senator KENNEDY is introducing the companion legislation in the Senate.

There are some 500,000 trained nurses in this country who are not working in their profession. Of course, their reasons for leaving nursing are many. But nurses consistently cite their concerns about the quality of care they feel they are able to provide in many health care settings today. Nurses are also greatly concerned about being forced to work mandatory overtime.

Listen to these words of a nurse in the state of Washington:

I have been a nurse for six years and most of the time I have worked in the hospital environment. It is difficult to tell you how terrible it is to "work scared" all the time. A mistake that I might make could easily cost someone their life and ruin mine. Every night at work we routinely "face the clock." All of us do without lunch and breaks and work overtime, often without pay, to ensure continuity of care for our patients. Yet, we are constantly asked to do more. It has become the norm for us to have patient assignments two and a half times greater than the staffing guidelines established by the hospital itself. I cannot continue to participate in this unsafe and irresponsible practice. So I am leaving, not because I don't love being a nurse, but because hospitals are not safe places: not for patients and not for nurses.

While stories like this are telling, we also have research to back up the concern. A recent study published in JAMA (October 23/30, 2002) proves what nurses have been telling us—that working too many hours while caring for too many patients leads to increased patient deaths and increased job dissatisfaction. The study found that the risk of death to a patient who has undergone surgery increases by 7 percent for each patient over four in a nurse's workload. It also found that patients in hospitals with the lowest nurse staffing levels (eight patients per nurse) have a 31% greater chance of dying than those patients in hospitals with four patients per nurse.

Studies also point to overtime issues as reasons for the nursing shortage. For example, a 2001 report by the General Accounting Office, *Nursing Workforce: Emerging Nurse Shortages Due to Multiple Factors*, concluded: [T]he

current high levels of job dissatisfaction among nurses may also play a crucial role in determining the extent of current and future nurse shortages. Efforts undertaken to improve the workplace environment may both reduce the likelihood of nurses leaving the field and encourage more young people to enter the nursing profession. . . .

We have the voices of nurses and the research evidence to prove that the practice of requiring nurses to work beyond the point they believe is safe is jeopardizing the quality of care patients receive. It is also contributing to the growing nurse shortage. Current projections are that the nurse workforce in 2020 will have fallen 20 percent below the level necessary to meet demand.

We have existing government standards that limit the hours that pilots, flight attendants, truck drivers, railroad engineers and other professions can safely work before consumer safety is endangered. However, no similar limitation currently exists for our nation's nurses who are caring for us at often the most vulnerable times in our lives.

The Safe Nursing and Patient Care Act would change that. It would set strict, new federal limits on the ability of health facilities to require mandatory overtime from nurses. Nurses would be allowed to continue to volunteer for overtime if and when they feel they can continue to provide safe, quality care. But, forced mandatory overtime would only be allowed when an official state of emergency was declared by federal, state or local government. These limits would be part of Medicare's provider agreements. They would not apply to nursing homes since alternative staffing and quality measures are already moving forward for those facilities.

To assure compliance, the bill provides HHS with the authority to investigate complaints from nurses about violations. It also grants HHS the power to issue civil monetary penalties of up to \$10,000 for violations of the act and to increase those fines for patterns of violations.

Providers would be required to post notices explaining these new rights and to post nurse schedules in prominent workplace locations. Nurses would also obtain anti-discrimination protections against employers who continued to force work hours for nurses beyond what a nurse believes is safe for quality care. Providers found to have violated the law would be posted on Medicare's website.

This legislation is not the final solution. I believe that standards must be developed to define timeframes for safe nursing care within the wide variety of health settings (whether such overtime is mandatory or voluntary). That is why the legislation also requires the Agency on Healthcare Research and Quality to report back to Congress with recommendations for developing overall standards to protect patient safety in nursing care.

I know that our nation's hospital trade associations will claim that my solution misses the mark because it is precisely the lack of nurses in the profession today that is necessitating their need to require mandatory overtime. Let me respond directly. Mandatory overtime is dangerous for patients plain and simple. It is also a driving force for nurses leaving the profession. These twin realities make mandatory overtime a dangerous short-term gamble at best. We should join together to end the practice.

This bill takes the first step to address the problem by strictly limiting the ability of providers to force nurses to work beyond their professional opinion of what is safe for fear of losing their jobs. This is a very real problem facing the nursing profession and that is why my bill is endorsed by the American Nurses Association, AFSCME, AFT, SEIU, AFGE, UAW, and the AFL-CIO—organizations that speak for America's nearly 3 million nurses.

Again, my bill is not the sole solution. I supported the Nurse Reinvestment Act, which was passed by Congress and signed into law last year. That legislation authorizes new federal investment and initiatives to increase the number of people pursuing a nursing education. Such efforts will help in the future, but it will be years before that law's impact is felt in our medical system. And, it will take even longer if the President and Republicans in Congress continue to withhold the funding necessary for the act to be implemented.

We need to help now. We must take steps to improve the nursing profession immediately so that today's nurses will remain in the field to care for those of us who need such care before new nurses can be trained. We also need today's nurses to be there as mentors for the nurses of tomorrow.

Mandatory nurse overtime is a very real quality of care issue for our health system and I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact the Safe Nursing and Patient Care Act. It will start us down the right path toward protecting patients and encouraging people to remain in—and enter—the nursing profession.

STATE OF THE UNION

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article to be included in the RECORD:

[From the New York Times, Jan. 30, 2003]

WHAT THE WORLD HEARS WHEN THE
PRESIDENT SPEAKS; CALMING FEARS

(By Bill Emmott)

Before President Bush's State of the Union address, worry about war and suspicion of America were the prevailing views in the outside world. After his address, worry and suspicion still prevail. But there is now hope that the suspicion, at least, could soon ease.

Don't misunderstand. I have long supported America's effort to enforce the United Nations resolutions calling on Saddam Hussein to disarm, and have felt that only under an ever-nearing threat of war was there any chance that this might be achieved, peacefully or otherwise. Few of my fellow Europeans (and surprisingly few Britons) have felt the same. Every time they have seen Mr. Bush speaking informally about this issue, their fears and suspicions have grown. However, every time they have seen him make a big, formal speech (as at the United Nations in September and before Congress on Tuesday) they have felt reassured.

This time, the reassurance did not come from his deliberately reassuring gestures, such as the promise to put up \$15 billion to combat H.I.V. and AIDS in Africa and the Caribbean or the \$1.2 billion for research into pollution-free cars. It came from his announcement that on Feb. 5 Secretary of State Colin Powell would reveal evidence of Iraq's weapons concealment to the Security Council.

It was reassuring because it suggests that some proof exists. Admittedly, the lust for evidence represents a sort of mass self-delusion, a belief that somehow the 1990's didn't happen and that no weapons programs were found then. It also represents topsy-turvy thinking: that the burden of proof is on Mr. Bush, not Saddam Hussein. Still, such thinking is a reality that the White House needs to face.

Such evidence is not needed on technical, moral or legal grounds. But it is needed to secure a broad coalition, which in turn is highly desirable if the risks of war—and an unstable aftermath of war—are to be reduced. At least from this vantage point in London, the recent opposition to war heard from France and Russia looks shallow. Some credible, publicly usable evidence is all that is needed for them to be able to back a second United Nations resolution and even to offer military support.

Following President Bush's address, therefore, an extremely favorable situation looks to be within America's grasp—a broad coalition and a second resolution, both just at the time when the military buildup is reaching its peak. Saddam Hussein, no doubt, will have fresh delaying tactics up his sleeve, such as apparent, partial admissions or concessions about weapons programs with which he will hope to sow new divisions and confusion. The wider the coalition against him, and the shorter the time he has available, the lower will be his chances of success.

The president's speech brought that prospect closer. Now Colin Powell must clinch it.

THE LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY CLEVELAND CHAPTER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lithuanian American Community Cleveland Chapter and their celebration of the 85th Anniversary of the Restoration of Lithuania's Independence, which will take place on Sunday, February 16, 2003 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help auditorium.

The Lithuanian American Community has focused on the celebration of Lithuanian heritage and providing educational, cultural, and social services to its members. The many events it sponsors such as folk dances, art and science symposiums, and theater festivals, are always open to the public in an effort to share Lithuania's rich culture with others. The Lithuanian American Community has done an excellent job of supporting cultural interaction between the United States and Lithuania and looks forward to further integration in the West.

I would like to take this opportunity to honor and thank the leaders and members of the Lithuanian American Community of Cleveland for organizing these wonderful festivities, and for sharing their rich culture with all Clevelanders.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Lithuanian American Community Cleveland Chapter, a wonderful organization that has provided support for Lithuanian Americans, and enriched Cleveland with the contribution of their culture and heritage. May Sunday's celebration of the Restoration of Lithuania's Independence be a wonderful re-

minder of Cleveland's richly diverse community, and a joyous occasion for all whom attend.

SPEECH BY GENERAL JAMES L. JONES

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to pay tribute to General James L. Jones who recently became the first Marine to assume command of the United States European Command, EUCOM. General Jones assumed command of EUCOM in Stuttgart, Germany, on January 16, 2003. Also, in a change of command ceremony held on January 17, 2003, in Mons, Belgium, General Jones became NATO's Supreme Allied Commander, Europe. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to share with the Members of the House the speech General Jones presented as he stepped into the command at EUCOM.

EUCOM COC REMARKS

Ambassador Coats, Members of Congress, Secretary Wolfowitz, General and Mrs. Myers, General and Mrs. Ralston, General and Mrs. Wald, State Secretary Bohmler, Lord Mayor Doctor Schuster, Professor Doctor Rommel, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Men and Women in Uniform, and Friends and Families: It is truly wonderful to be in Stuttgart again! Having been raised in Europe, and having served in this command from 1992-94, I have grown to appreciate the privilege and warmth of German hospitality—thank you one and all for welcoming us back and for making this a truly special occasion for Diane and me.

Men and women in uniform have the honor of serving our respective nations . . . and for Americans here present, it is a special responsibility to be able to serve our country overseas. America is fortunate to be a Nation of influence . . . the record of history will reveal it to be an influence for the greater good of freedom-loving people for stability and for the cause of peace in the world.

Nonetheless, we live in dangerous times . . . there are some in this world who would threaten our common ideals and our goals. They follow an ideology of illicit trade, illegal drugs, assassination, and global terrorism. They are, today, the cause of much of the suffering in the world, and so . . . it is morally right that those who love freedom . . . and are willing to defend it . . . pursue them into every dark corner of the world from which they plot and ply their trade.

We must, and will, remain vigilant and steadfast . . . victory in this global war will not come quickly . . . nor will we achieve it alone. It will take men and women of great character and courage to prevail in these demanding times—men and women such as those assembled here today . . . the men and women of the U.S. European Command working towards our common objectives in partnership with our friends and allies.

More than courage and character, qualities of principled leadership will remain vitally important. Fortunately for all of us, we have all benefited first hand from the extraordinary leadership of General and Mrs. Ralston over the past two and one-half years.

Joe and Dede, thank you both for your years of service to our Nation and to freedom loving people everywhere . . . for your caring advice and warm friendship . . . for your extraordinary generosity and thoughtfulness in

making this transition so effective and enjoyable . . . Diane and I wish you every happiness as you move into the next phase of your lives and as you go north to Alaska.

Men and women of the U.S. European Command, I am extremely humbled and proud to serve with you. Many challenges remain. We will not lack for important things to do. Where there is great challenge, there is great opportunity for those with the will and the courage to seize the moment. Now is such a moment.

The war on terrorism, changes to the unified command plan, and ongoing operations will all complete for our time and our resources . . . and we must also ensure that the quality of life provided to our families receives proper attention as well, for they play a critical role in the readiness of our force.

Diane and I look forward to working with you and your families . . . to continue to improve the spirit of security and cooperation we have worked so hard to build. To our German hosts, thank you for your warm hospitality and support . . . and to all of you present here today, thank you for making this event such a memorable one for both Diane and me.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE TO THE FAMILIES OF THE CREW OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA"

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, today I join my many colleagues in mourning the loss of the seven courageous men and women on board the space shuttle *Columbia*. This is indeed a tragic loss, for the families of these seven astronauts, and for our Nation. These men and women committed their lives to the pursuit of knowledge and, in that pursuit, they made the ultimate sacrifice. For their courage and self-sacrifice they will be forever remembered as heroes.

While the *Columbia* tragedy demonstrated the risks involved in manned space travel, it also reminds us that NASA has had an excellent performance record over the past four decades. The courageous and talented men and women of NASA have made discoveries in space that have profoundly improved our lives on earth. Our exploration of space, our pursuit of knowledge must go on. As the families of the *Columbia* seven have stated, we cannot look back, we must press forward with our exploration of new territories.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be here today, remembering these fallen heroes. I am grateful for the resolve of our astronauts, our President, and Americans everywhere to remember the past while looking to the future. I urge my colleagues to unequivocally support this resolution.

LATIN AMERICA

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article to be included in the RECORD:

[From the New York Times, Jan. 30, 2003]

WHAT THE WORLD HEARS WHEN THE
PRESIDENT SPEAKS; REMEMBER US?

(By Enrique Krauze)

Focused on its enemies, the Bush administration has forgotten its friends. Only one world region went entirely unmentioned in the State of the Union speech: Latin America. In another, far distant age—five days before terror struck New York and Washington—President Bush pledged a new alliance with President Vicente Fox of Mexico, on the grounds that a strong Mexico makes for a stronger United States. After 9/11, however, everything changed.

All of Latin America now seems aware that the United States has returned to an essentially reactive diplomacy that seems to come to life only when there are missiles pointing at its shores, Marxist guerrillas in the jungles, or revolutionary governments in the old banana republics. This is unfortunate because Latin America (with the exception of Cuba) has for a decade been abandoning its old grievances, drawing closer to the United States, opting for democracy and rejecting militarism, statism and Marxism. What is needed to make Washington take this Copernican shift seriously and support it in tangible ways? Maybe what is needed is for the miracle to end. And it may indeed end, if, in the face of American neglect, Latin Americans turn toward the biggest specter of the past: populism, the age-old temptation to put power in the hands of a heaven-sent strongman—yesterday in Alberto Fujimori's Peru, today in Hugo Chavez's Venezuela, and tomorrow perhaps in a charismatic Mexican politician.

Unfortunately, populist sentiment has been reinforced by Washington's mistakes. It lost democratic credibility by not condemning the coup against the populist but democratically elected Mr. Chavez. There was the scolding of Brazil and Argentina by Paul H. O'Neill, the former Treasury secretary, which sent their currencies tumbling. And there is the supreme shortsightedness of the economic blockade of Cuba.

More worrisome still is the administration's attitude toward its neighbor. The shelving of the 2001 immigration agreement was a mistake that has been compounded by new subsidies for American farmers, which fly in the face of the reforms required of Mexican agriculture under Nafta. Mexico's rural regions are its most sensitive. It was peasants who fought the Mexican Revolution 90 years ago, and it is from rural Mexico that the next explosion would likely come.

I agree with Mr. Bush that if Saddam Hussein is not evil "then evil has no meaning." But to combat evil, one must find strength in friendship. In dealing with the south, George W. Bush should try a different doctrine: pre-emptive cooperation.

IN HONOR OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS
POLICE CHIEF RICHARD W. UNGER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to today in honor and recognition of Police Chief Richard W. Unger, upon the occasion of his recent retirement from the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department, after twenty-seven years of dedication to the force and honor of the badge.

Chief Unger grew up in Cuyahoga Heights, and committed his entire law enforcement career to protecting the safety of the residents of his hometown. He joined the Cuyahoga Heights police department in 1976. Within ten years, Chief Unger was promoted to Lieutenant, then Captain. During that time, he also served as the Juvenile Officer, and was one of the original members of the Cuyahoga Valley SWAT team.

In 1992, at the youthful age of thirty-nine, Mr. Unger was promoted to the position of Police Chief. Chief Unger's total dedication to his profession was also reflected in his pursuit of additional law enforcement education and training. Throughout his law enforcement tenure, Chief Unger regularly attended workshops, classes and seminars to bolster his experience and knowledge. In addition, Chief Unger has been a member of many safety force commissions and boards, and has been awarded numerous awards and commendations for his exceptional work.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of Cuyahoga Heights Police Chief Richard W. Unger, as we reflect on the past twenty-seven years of his significant service to the citizens of Cuyahoga Heights. Chief Unger's easy-going nature, integrity, expertise, and focus on protecting his constituents in Cuyahoga Heights have all served to raise the grade safety operations in Cuyahoga Heights to an exceptional level. Chief Unger has been an outstanding role model for his four children, grandchildren, and for every resident of Cuyahoga Heights. Chief Unger's exceptional service, focused on the welfare and safety of families and individuals, is truly significant and worthy of our gratitude and recognition. We wish Chief Unger, his wife Katherine, and his entire family many blessings and great happiness in his retirement. We also wish him many wonderful cloudless summer days of smooth sailing and great fishing along the waves of Lake Erie—Port outboard, Starboard home.

HONORING THE OHIO WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S SOCCER
TEAM'S SECOND NCAA CHAM-
PIONSHIP TITLE

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Ohio Wesleyan University Battling Bishops Women's Soccer Team, who have won their second consecutive National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Championship title.

Coach Bob Barnes led the Battling Bishops to a win over Messiah College in the NCAA Division III championship game on November 30, 2002 in Geneva, N.Y. on the campus of Hobart and William Smith Colleges. This game concluded a remarkable 24 and 0 season that saw veteran and freshman players make positive contributions and grow as student athletes.

The national title makes the Bishops the first team to repeat as NCAA Division III champions since the University of California at San

Diego in 1995–97. The win also extended the Battling Bishops' NCAA Division III-record winning streak to 45 straight games. The shutout was Ohio Wesleyan's 20th of the season.

Coach Barnes has built a successful team while upholding the school's strong tradition of requiring success in the classroom as well as on the playing fields. His leadership has paid off and the Battling Bishops have back-to-back championships to show for it and memories of this winning season for a lifetime.

The National Soccer Coaches Association of America and Adidas have also named Coach Barnes the NCAA Division III Coach of the Year. This is also the second straight NSCAA Coach of the Year honor for Barnes, who is a 1989 Ohio Wesleyan graduate.

The 2002 OWU Women's Soccer Team is as follows: Freshmen—Louise Cooley, Alicia Grambeau, Hillary Hughes, Kelsey McDonough, Sara Vogel, Sarah Wall, Melanie Yoder. Sophomores—Stefanie Fluke, Toni Frissora, Deborah Lochner, Kahrman McKenzie, Jill Taylor, Carrie Williams, Jennifer Wise, Kelsey Wright. Juniors—Casey Dobbins, Erika Howland, Krista Pouliot, Liz Sheehan, Tiffany Soggs, Akeya Terrell, Amy Work. Seniors—Emily Bayer, Lindsey Bland, Bre Cady, Mindy Hammond, Jamie Jenkins.

As a proud graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, I offer my sincere congratulations to the Battling Bishops and hope that I will have the opportunity to give similar remarks next year at the conclusion of the 2003 season.

RECOGNIZING THE 92ND BIRTHDAY
OF RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, twenty-two years ago, as a young major of Marines, I had the high honor of serving President Reagan as his military aide. On inauguration day in 1981, this great man started immediately to improve the morale and pride of the armed forces. He had real admiration and respect for Americans in uniform, and real concerns about the status of our military forces in that troubling decade following the war in Vietnam. It seems impossible now, but in those years we were not permitted to wear the military uniform, unless by exception, in our nation's capital—a sad indicator of the state to which pride and confidence had fallen.

During his first inaugural parade, President Reagan told each of the service chiefs that it was time for a change. He told them he wanted to see more uniforms on the street. He knew that this change of direction and attitude was important not only to those wearing the uniforms, but to all Americans. The time of shame and remorse was over. We owe a great debt to this great man for many, many reasons. But, perhaps the first reason is his remarkable transformation of our armed forces.

Thank you, Mr. President and Happy Birthday!

BEYOND VIETNAM LIES IRAQ:
SHARED SACRIFICE IN THE
WORDS OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER
KING

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that this year as we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday and Black History Month, that Dr. Martin Luther King be remembered not only for his involvement in the civil rights movement, but also for his quest to achieve peace and justice for all by speaking out against war. On April 4, 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King gave a speech entitled "Beyond Vietnam." In this speech, Dr. King spoke out against the Vietnam war, and more importantly, spoke of the need to wage peace, not war.

In the weeks that President Bush and his administration have been leading this country to war against Iraq, I have found myself going through many of the same motions of a man who opposed a war more than thirty years ago. I began by voting against the Congressional Resolution that gave President Bush the authority to carry out this war, and have most recently pushed for Americans to more carefully consider the costs of going to war without just cause by introducing a bill that would reinstate the draft. My push to reinstate the draft was meant to first, show my opposition to a unilateral preemptive strike against Iraq and second, to insure that if America does go to war, that an equitable representation of all classes of Americans are making the sacrifice for our great country.

In being reintroduced to Dr. King's speech, I found that, while he was attempting to end a war, his goals in giving the "Beyond Vietnam" speech were similar to my own, in that he wanted the persons being called upon to fight the war to realize that the war they were fighting was serving the needs of persons that were not interested in serving their needs. As have I, Dr. King recognized that the poor were disproportionately shouldering the burden of a war. Dr. King described the war as a "cruel manipulation of the poor" and an "enemy of the poor" that was "sending their sons and their brothers and their husbands to fight and to die in extraordinarily high proportions relative to the rest of the population."

The recognition that the sacrifices being made for this country were (and continue to) not be shared was only one of a number of realizations Dr. King made in regards to the Vietnam War. As many of the insights he made then continue to be relevant in our journey down the warpath to Iraq, I invite you to read these excerpts from a speech delivered on April 4, 1967, at a meeting of Clergy and Laity Concerned at Riverside Church in New York City and consider the words of Dr. Martin Luther King.

BEYOND VIETNAM: A TIME TO BREAK SILENCE

I come to this magnificent house of worship tonight because my conscience leaves me no other choice. [. . .] The recent statement of your executive committee are the sentiments of my own heart and I found myself in full accord when I read its opening lines: "A time comes when silence is betrayal." That time has come for us in rela-

tion to Vietnam. [. . .] I come to this platform tonight to make a passionate plea to my beloved nation. [. . .] Tonight, however, I wish not to speak with Hanoi and the NLF, but rather to my fellow Americans, who, with me, bear the greatest responsibility in ending a conflict that has exacted a heavy price on both continents.

Since I am a preacher by trade, I suppose it is not surprising that I have seven major reasons for bringing Vietnam into the field of my moral vision. There is at the outset a very obvious and almost facile connection between the war in Vietnam and the struggle 1, and others, have been waging in America. A few years ago there was a shining moment in that struggle. It seemed as if there was a real promise of hope for the poor—both black and white—through the poverty program. There were experiments, hopes, new beginnings. Then came the buildup in Vietnam and I watched the program broken and eviscerated as if it were some idle political plaything of a society gone mad on war, and I knew that America would never invest the necessary funds or energies in rehabilitation of its poor so long as adventures like Vietnam continued to draw men and skills and money like some demonic destructive suction tube. So I was increasingly compelled to see the war as an enemy of the poor and to attack it as such.

Perhaps the more tragic recognition of reality took place when it became clear to me that the war was doing far more than devastating the hopes of the poor at home. It was sending their sons and their brothers and their husbands to fight and to die in extraordinarily high proportions relative to the rest of the population. We were taking the black young men who had been crippled by our society and sending them eight thousand miles away to guarantee liberties in Southeast Asia which they had not found in southwest Georgia and East Harlem. So we have been repeatedly faced with the cruel irony of watching Negro and white boys on TV screens as they kill and die together for a nation that has been unable to seat them together in the same schools. So we watch them in brutal solidarity burning the huts of a poor village, but we realize that they would never live on the same block in Detroit. I could not be silent in the face of such cruel manipulation of the poor.

My third reason moves to an even deeper level of awareness, for it grows out of my experience in the ghettos of the North over the last three years—especially the last three summers. As I have walked among the desperate, rejected and angry young men I have told them that Molotov cocktails and rifles would not solve their problems. I have tried to offer them my deepest compassion while maintaining my conviction that social change comes most meaningfully through nonviolent action. But they asked—and rightly so—what about Vietnam? They asked if our own nation wasn't using massive doses of violence to solve its problems, to bring about the changes it wanted. Their questions hit home, and I knew that I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos without having first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today—my own government. For the sake of those boys, for the sake of this government, for the sake of hundreds of thousands trembling under our violence, I cannot be silent. [. . .]

Now, it should be incandescently clear that no one who has any concern for the integrity and life of America today can ignore the present war. If America's soul becomes totally poisoned, part of the autopsy must read Vietnam. It can never be saved so long as it destroys the deepest hopes of men the world over. So it is that those of us who are yet de-

termined that America will be led down the path of protest and dissent, working for the health of our land. [. . .]

And as I ponder the madness of Vietnam and search within myself for ways to understand and respond to compassion my mind goes constantly to the people of that peninsula. I speak now not of the soldiers of each side, not of the junta in Saigon, but simply of the people who have been living under the curse of war for almost three continuous decades now. I think of them too because it is clear to me that there will be no meaningful solution there until some attempt is made to know them and hear their broken cries. They must see Americans as strange liberators. [. . .]

After the French were defeated it looked as if independence and land reform would come again through the Geneva agreements. But instead there came the United States, determined that Ho should not unify the temporarily divided nation, and the peasants watched again as we supported one of the most vicious modern dictators—our chosen man, Premier Diem. The peasants watched and cringed as Diem ruthlessly routed out all opposition, supported their extortionist landlords and refused even to discuss reunification with the north. The peasants watched as all this was presided over by U.S. influence and then by increasing numbers of U.S. troops who came to help quell the insurgency that Diem's methods had aroused. When Diem was overthrown they may have been happy, but the long line of military dictatorships seemed to offer no real change—especially in terms of their need for land and peace.

The only change came from America as we increased our troop commitments in support of governments which were singularly corrupt, inept and without popular support. All the while the people read our leaflets and received regular promises of peace and democracy—and land reform. Now they languish under our bombs and consider us—not their fellow Vietnamese—the real enemy. They move sadly and apathetically as we herd them off the land of their fathers into concentration camps where minimal social needs are rarely met. They know they must move or be destroyed by our bombs. So they go—primarily women and children and the aged. [. . .] They wander into the hospitals, with at least twenty casualties from American firepower for one "Vietcong"-inflicted injury. So far we may have killed a million of them—mostly children. They see the children, degraded by our soldiers as they beg for food. They see the children selling their sisters to our soldiers, soliciting for their mothers.

What do the peasants think as we ally ourselves with the landlords and as we refuse to put any action into our many words concerning land reform? What do they think as we test our latest weapons on them, just as the Germans tested out new medicine and new tortures in the concentration camps of Europe? Where are the roots of the independent Vietnam we claim to be building? Is it among these voiceless ones?

We have destroyed their two most cherished institutions: the family and the village. We have destroyed their land and their crops. [. . .] Now there is little left to build on—save bitterness. Soon the only solid physical foundations remaining will be found at our military bases and in the concrete of the concentration camps we call fortified hamlets. The peasants may well wonder if we plan to build our new Vietnam on such grounds as these? Could we blame them for such thoughts? We must speak for them and raise the questions they cannot raise. These too are our brothers. [. . .] They question our political goals and they deny the reality

of a peace settlement from which they will be excluded. Their questions are frighteningly relevant. Is our nation planning to build on political myth again and then shore it up with the power of new violence?

Here is the true meaning and value of compassion and nonviolence when it helps us to see the enemy's point of view, to hear his questions, to know his assessment of ourselves. For from his view we may indeed see the basic weaknesses of our own condition, and if we are mature, we may learn and grow and profit from the wisdom of the brothers who are called the opposition. [. . .]

At this point I should make it clear that while I have tried in these last few minutes to give a voice to the voiceless on Vietnam and to understand the arguments of those who are called enemy, I am as deeply concerned about our troops there as anything else. For it occurs to me that what we are submitting them to in Vietnam is not simply the brutalizing process that goes on in any war where armies face each other and seek to destroy. We are adding cynicism to the process of death, for they must know after a short period there that none of the things we claim to be fighting for are really involved. Before long they must know that their government has sent them into a struggle among Vietnamese, and the more sophisticated surely realize that we are on the side of the wealthy and the secure while we create hell for the poor. [. . .]

This is the message of the great Buddhist leaders of Vietnam. Recently one of them wrote these words: "Each day the war goes on the hatred increases in the heart of the Vietnamese and in the hearts of those of humanitarian instinct. The Americans are forcing even their friends into becoming their enemies. It is curious that the Americans, who calculate so carefully on the possibilities of military victory, do not realize that in the process they are incurring deep psychological and political defeat. The image of America will never again be the image of revolution, freedom and democracy, but the image of violence and militarism."

If we continue, there will be no doubt in my mind and in the mind of the world that we have no honorable intentions in Vietnam. [. . .] The world now demands a maturity of America that we may not be able to achieve. It demands that we admit that we have been wrong from the beginning of our adventure in Vietnam, that we have been detrimental to the life of the Vietnamese people. The situation is one in which we must be ready to turn sharply from our present ways.

[. . .] I would like to suggest five concrete things that our government should do immediately to begin the long and difficult process of extricating ourselves from this nightmarish conflict: (1) End all bombing in North and South Vietnam; (2) Declare a unilateral cease-fire in the hope that such action will create the atmosphere for negotiation; (3) Take immediate steps to prevent other battlegrounds in Southeast Asia by curtailing our military buildup in Thailand and our interference in Laos; (4) Realistically accept the fact that the National Liberation Front has substantial support in South Vietnam and must thereby play a role in any meaningful negotiations and in any future Vietnam government; (5) Set a date that we will remove all foreign troops from Vietnam in accordance with the 1954 Geneva agreement. [. . .]

Meanwhile we in the churches and synagogues have a continuing task while we urge our government to disengage itself from a disgraceful commitment. We must continue to raise our voices if our nation persists in its perverse ways in Vietnam. We must be prepared to match actions with words by seeking out every creative means of protest possible. [. . .]

The war in Vietnam is but a symptom of a far deeper malady within the American spirit, and if we ignore this sobering reality we will find ourselves organizing clergy- and laymen-concerned committees for the next generation. They will be concerned about Guatemala and Peru. They will be concerned about Thailand and Cambodia. They will be concerned about Mozambique and South Africa. We will be marching for these and a dozen other names and attending rallies without end unless there is a significant and profound change in American life and policy. Such thoughts take us beyond Vietnam, but not beyond our calling as sons of the living God.

In 1957 a sensitive American official overseas said that it seemed to him that our nation was on the wrong side of a world revolution. During the past ten years we have seen emerge a pattern of suppression which now has justified the presence of U.S. military "advisors" in Venezuela. This need to maintain social stability for our investments accounts for the counter-revolutionary action of American forces in Guatemala. It tells why American helicopters are being used against guerrillas in Colombia and why American napalm and green beret forces have already been active against rebels in Peru. It is with such activity in mind that the words of the late John F. Kennedy come back to haunt us. Five years ago he said, "Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable." [. . .]

I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a "thing-oriented" society to a "person-oriented" society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered.

A true revolution of values will soon cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our past and present policies. [. . .] A true revolution of values will soon look uneasily on the glaring contrast of poverty and wealth. With righteous indignation, it will look across the seas and see individual capitalists of the West investing huge sums of money in Asia, Africa and South America, only to take the profits out with no concern for the social betterment of the countries, and say: "This is not just." It will look at our alliance with the landed gentry of Latin America and say: "This is not just." The Western arrogance of feeling that it has everything to teach others and nothing to learn from them is not just. [. . .]

We must move past indecision to action. We must find new ways to speak for peace in Vietnam and justice throughout the developing world—a world that borders on our doors. If we do not act we shall surely be dragged down the long dark and shameful corridors of time reserved for those who possess power without compassion, might without morality, and strength without sight.

Now let us begin. Now let us rededicate ourselves to the long and bitter—but beautiful—struggle for a new world. This is the calling of the sons of God, and our brothers wait eagerly for our response. Shall we say the odds are too great? Shall we tell them the struggle is too hard? Will our message be that the forces of American life militate against their arrival as full men, and we send our deepest regrets? Or will there be another message, of longing, of hope, of solidarity with their yearnings, of commitment to their cause, whatever the cost? The choice is ours, and though we might prefer it otherwise we must choose in this crucial moment of human history.

IN HONOR OF DANNY H. CAMERON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Danny H. Cameron, respected businessman, community advocate, dedicated family man, and friend and mentor to countless, as he is honored as the Black Professional of The Year by the Black Professionals Association Charitable Foundation in Cleveland, Ohio.

Since its inception in 1982, Mr. Cameron has led the National City Community Development Center (NCCDC) as its President and Executive Director. In this capacity, he has carried out the mission of the NCCDC with great focus, vision, and dedication, aimed at uplifting the residential and commercial aspects of our Cleveland neighborhoods. Under his direction, the National City Community Development Center has extended into the communities of six states. The astounding achievements of Mr. Cameron and the NCCDC include investments of nearly 400 million dollars into the construction, renovation and preservation of homes in Cleveland and other cities, resulting in 39,000 affordable housing units for low and middle-income families and individuals. Amazingly, because of the direction of Mr. Cameron, more than ninety percent of new housing in Cleveland grew out of NCCDC investments.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Cameron has been a deeply committed community volunteer. He has created programs for area high school students that encourage learning and growth in the areas of computer technology, and has developed funds that provide college scholarships to area youth. Mr. Cameron has also committed his time, service and expertise on the boards and commissions of many worthy civic and community agencies.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor of Mr. Danny H. Cameron, as we recognize his significant contribution to our community. His work, expertise and dedication have served to improve and unify our diverse citizenry. Mr. Cameron's strong leadership abilities, vision, and passion for social and economic justice for all have earned him the deep admiration and respect of the Cleveland community and communities beyond. Mr. Cameron's gift of service to others raises the spirit of families, strengthens the unity of inner city streets, and provides a window of light and hope in our neighborhoods by illuminating our corner of the universe, one family, one house, and one street corner at a time.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SEAMUS CONNOLLY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to enter into the RECORD today these remarks to acknowledge the accomplishments of Seamus Connolly. He is the Director of the Boston College Irish Studies

Music, Song, and Dance Program. Mr. Connolly is an established Irish Fiddler and Gaelic musician, and his great success and technical precision in competitions in the '60s were extremely influential in setting a high standard of craft for today's players. Mr. Connolly first came to the United States in 1972 as a member of the first Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (CCE) tour. After immigrating to the United States in 1976, Mr. Connolly settled in Groton, Massachusetts, and entered into the realm of teaching to extend his knowledge of music at the request of Larry Reynolds, President of the local branch of CCE. His presence and committed teaching in Boston is influential throughout the East Coast, making it a badge of honor for the area's musicians to have a tune from Mr. Connolly, and his work with the Gaelic Roots Summer Program at Boston College makes the tradition accessible to an ever broadening circle.

In 1993, Mr. Connolly began the Gaelic Roots Summer Program as an indoor festival, which has progressed into an array of workshops, exhibitions, classes, and a concert series. In addition to his teaching, Mr. Connolly is a recipient of the Irish Echo Traditional Artist of the Year Award for 2002, and a ten-time winner of the Irish National Championship. He has produced numerous recordings, and a 132-page book with more than 50 Irish tunes and collaborations with other artists. Mr. Connolly has had the honor of representing Ireland on three "Masters of the Folk Violin" tours organized by the National Council for the Traditional Arts. In 1990, he won a Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellowship Award, one of three recipients from over 2,500 applicants. Also, Mr. Connolly appeared on the nationally televised "Today Show" and was profiled by Boston's WCVB-TV5 "Chronicle Program." He initiated, produced and cohosted with Larry Reynolds Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann's ongoing weekly radio program of traditional Irish music on WNTN-1550 AM Boston. He also co-hosted the Irish segments of Boston's WGBH National Public Radio series "Ethnicity."

Mr. Speaker, it is with great appreciation and gratitude for Mr. Connolly's dedication and leadership to Irish music that I ask he be recognized. Mr. Connolly possesses the intelligence and poise of an excellent fiddle player, and graciously extends his talent to the community.

RECOGNIZING THE 92ND BIRTHDAY OF RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to first wish former President Reagan and his wife well on his birthday and my thoughts and prayers are with them as he deals with the terrible disease of Alzheimer's. While I support those provisions in H.J. Res. 19, the bill went well beyond a simple birthday wish. I could not in good faith cast a vote for a bill that stated that the Reagan Administration ensured renewed economic prosperity when millions of Americans were hurt by its economic policies.

RECOGNITION OF RAYMOND LANG

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great man who passed away on January 30th, 2003. Mr. Raymond K. Lang led a life of service both to his country and to his community. He served in the Air Force for four years, reaching the rank of sergeant, and was also a member of the Rhode Island Air National Guard's 143rd Arial Port Squadron for twenty years, retiring in April 2002 at the rank of master sergeant.

In 2001, he received an associate's degree in computer science from the Community College of Rhode Island, and until his untimely death, he worked diligently as a project leader in the information technology department at the Wolverine Joining Tube Company. He was an active member of the Asbury United Methodist Church and a committed volunteer for Habitat for Humanity.

Mr. Lang is survived by a wife, Debra Jean Lang; two sons, Peter R. and Ryan C. Lang; two brothers, John J. Lang Jr. and James E. Lang; and one sister, Lorena M. Zisk. They are a testament to his wonderful and giving life. He will be greatly missed and our thoughts and prayers go out to all those who mourn his loss. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

BAIT AND SWITCH

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article to be included in the RECORD:

[From The New York Times, Jan. 30, 2003]

BAIT AND SWITCH

(By Bob Herbert)

President Bush has learned how to deliver a moving speech. But Tuesday night's State of the Union Message did not address the most important question facing the American people: What kind of nation are we becoming?

The president spoke passionately about bringing "food and medicines and supplies and freedom" to the Iraqi people. But he is leading a hard-right administration here at home that is seriously eroding the economic security, the access to health care, the civil rights and civil liberties and the environmental protections of the American people. The first part of the president's speech was crafted to create exactly the opposite impression. He promised an economy "that grows fast enough to employ every man and woman who seeks a job." He proposed a prescription drug benefit for some retirees. And he said he was ready to commit \$1.2 billion to research into environmentally friendly hydrogen-powered automobiles.

But those were largely bait-and-switch proposals. Despite rising unemployment, the president's plan for the economy was simply a continuation of his tax-cut mania. There was nothing in the way of a job-creation program or a real economic stimulus. And there was absolutely zero help offered to the states and local governments whose budgetary knees are buckling under the weight of their worst fiscal crisis since World War II.

The president's prescription drug benefit, tempting at first glance, is tied to a restructuring of Medicare that will curtail, not enhance, the delivery of health services to the elderly. It was designed to look like an act of compassion. It's not.

The hydrogen cars initiative was a particularly deft touch for a president who has been hammered for his environmental policies. Hydrogen-powered autos could make a difference in the long term, say 20 or 30 years from now, or more. But what is much more significant is that Mr. Bush has stood like a rock with the opponents of increased fuel efficiency for the cars we're driving right now. The payoff for immediately improving vehicle fuel economy would be huge. In addition to saving money for motorists, it would cut pollution, curtail our contribution to the greenhouse effect and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

We heard nothing about that in the speech. The Bush administration is changing the nation in fundamental ways. However one feels about a U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, over the long term a bullying, go-it-alone foreign policy wedded to a military doctrine of preemption is a recipe for destabilization and paranoia around the world. And despite its professed commitment to compassionate policies at home, the administration's obsession with tax cuts is proving destructive on two fronts: It is draining the nation's coffers of money for social programs (including Medicare and Social Security), and blocking any real attempt to invest in a range of programs and infrastructure initiatives that are crucial to the nation's long-term future.

Some of those programs relate directly to domestic security. These issues get short shrift in an atmosphere of imminent war. But I doubt that this is the kind of country most Americans want. And we are already beginning to pay the price. Local taxes are soaring and services are breaking down.

On the night of the president's speech, the governor of New Jersey, James McGreevey, announced that he would be cutting state aid to colleges and universities by 10 percent because of a \$5 billion state budget gap. In Connecticut, nearly 3,000 state workers have been laid off and Gov. John Rowland said another 1,000 needed to go. In some states the public school week is being curtailed. In some, prisoners are being furloughed.

These are telling indications of the real state of the union. As the most powerful nation on earth, and the world's only superpower, the United States has a particular obligation to use its might wisely abroad and to distribute its benefits fairly at home. That is not an easy mission for a hard-right-wing administration, which is why the Bush administration puts such a premium on the rhetoric of compassion.

Behind the veil of rhetoric is a Darwinian political philosophy that, if clearly understood, would repel the majority of Americans. <http://www.nytimes.com>.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM McCLAIN AS A GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William McClain, a retired judge and former Cincinnati solicitor, who will be formally honored on February 26, 2003 by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce as a Great Living Cincinnati. The recipients of this

prestigious award are selected on the basis of special professional achievement; an awareness of the needs of others; civic service; leadership; and distinctive accomplishments.

In 1937, Judge McClain arrived in Cincinnati. A product of Wittenberg University and the University of Michigan Law School, he had determination and the good fortune to practice law with the late Theodore Berry. Among the great many firsts he established for African Americans in Cincinnati, Judge McClain became Cincinnati's first African American assistant solicitor (1942); member of the Cincinnati Bar Association (1950); city solicitor (1963); and Hamilton County Common Pleas Judge (1975). He also served as Hamilton County Municipal Court Judge (1977); Hamilton County Municipal Court trial referee (1979). He has taught at the University of Cincinnati College of Law and Salmon P. Chase College of Law. Even today, at age 89, Judge McClain spends time at his office in a major downtown Cincinnati law firm.

The numerous awards he has received include: the Ellis Island Gold Medal of Honor for contributions to culture, diversity and the American way of life; the Race Relations Award from the Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission; the National Bar Association Hall of Fame; and a certificate of honor from the NAACP board for outstanding civic contributions to Cincinnati in race relations.

Judge McClain is married to Roberta White McClain, a retired supervisor for the Hamilton County Welfare Department.

All of us in Cincinnati thank Judge McClain for his service to our community, and congratulate him for being named a Great Living Cincinnati.

HONORING CHARLES SCRIPPS AS
A GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles Scripps, who will be formally honored on February 26, 2003 by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce as a Great Living Cincinnati. The recipients of this prestigious award are selected on the basis of special professional achievement; an awareness of the needs of others; civic service; leadership; and distinctive accomplishments.

Mr. Scripps is a grandson of E.W. Scripps, who founded the newspapers that began the Cincinnati-based media group that now includes the Cincinnati Post and Kentucky Post newspapers, broadcast television stations, and national cable television networks. Although he retired as the company's Chairman in 1994, Mr. Scripps remains on the Board of Directors and also serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the E.W. Scripps Trust.

After attending the College of William & Mary and later Pomona College in California, Mr. Scripps began his career with his father's newspaper, the Cleveland Press, as a police reporter before World War II. After service with the Coast Guard during the war, he returned to the family's business.

During the 1980s, Mr. Scripps became an advocate for literacy. The Scripps Howard

Foundation created an annual award, named for him, to encourage literacy outreach by the media. His civic associations do not end there. He serves on advisory boards for the Greater Cincinnati Salvation Army and the Hamilton County Juvenile Court. He is past president of the Inter-American Press Association, and he received an honorary degree in 1983 from Ohio University for his "championship of press freedom worldwide."

Mr. Scripps and his late wife, Lois Anne McKay, have four children. He married Mary Elizabeth Breslin in 1993.

All of us in Cincinnati thank Mr. Scripps for his service to our community, and congratulate him for being named a Great Living Cincinnati.

HONORING THE PILGRIMS
LANDING AT PLYMOUTH ROCK

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a resolution which recognizes December 21 1960, the date when the pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.

The Pilgrims were Dutch and English citizens who sought to escape the religious persecution and economic problems of their time by immigrating to the New World. Their voyage was one of discovery and an enduring quest for freedom that began by boarding the Mayflower. After a difficult journey across the Atlantic, the pilgrims arrived prepared to create a new society modeled on freedom. The many months of hardship and deprivation was rewarded with their arrival at the New World. When land was sighted on November 9, 1620, the Pilgrims signed the Mayflower Compact, which ensured the equality of every person. This pact laid the foundation and moral framework for the future United States of America.

When the pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock, they faced harsh conditions. It was too cold to plant crops and many died due to exposure, disease and starvation. It was not until the spring when the Pilgrims and Native Americans came together as a community teaching each other survival skills and agriculture that life gradually improved.

During the War of Independence, residents of Plymouth, Massachusetts began celebrating the historic landing at Plymouth Rock. It began as a feast that the descendants of the original pilgrims celebrated and eventually grew into a town festival. The festival continued through the years until President Abraham Lincoln started celebrating it in the White House during the Civil War.

In 1941, Congress passed a Joint resolution that "Thanksgiving" should fall on the fourth Thursday in November but not until now has Congress had the opportunity to commend the actual date the Pilgrims landed.

Please join me in commemorating the first of many steps that crafted this great nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. DORIS HEYMAN

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay homage to Doris Heyman, one of my district's most involved civic activists who sadly lost her courageous battle against cancer this month.

Doris was committed to creating a bright future for everyone she came into contact with. A dedicated educator, she was a preschool teacher for over 20 years who was determined to provide children with a solid foundation for school and life success. She was a leader who advanced children's issues through Voices for Children, a leadership organization promoting healthy lives for children and their families.

Doris was a compassionate volunteer for numerous causes and charities for nearly half a century. She actively participated in the American Cancer Society, the Humane Society, the Leukemia Society, and the Florida Breast Cancer Coalition. She was also very active at Safe Space/Domestic Violence Centers and at the Temple Beth Torah and Temple Beth El. This dynamo of a public servant gave hope and courage to many.

A political activist, Doris lived her life with incredible passion for several causes. She fought for beach renourishment, women's reproductive rights and the everglades restoration. Her fight for these causes remains within her legacy. Inspired by her mother's tenacious approach to politics, her youngest daughter, Sally, served as a member of the Florida House of Representatives and today is a Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioner.

Doris was a devoted wife and mother. She was a kindhearted and take-charge woman who fought tirelessly for causes that she believed in until she saw results. She was a very active person who loved the outdoors. Completely unselfish in all her endeavors, she was generous to those in need and will be missed by all that knew her.

HONORING THE SELECTION OF MS.
ERIN BEAULIEU FOR THE PRU-
DENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY
AWARD

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Ms. Erin Beaulieu upon her selection as one of two recipients of the Virginia 2003 Prudential Spirit of Community Award.

Erin, a Red Cross member and eighth-grader at Whitman Middle School in Alexandria, Virginia, started a Red Cross student chapter at her school and encouraged her fellow students to become involved! The chapter now boasts more than 30 members dedicated to helping the American Red Cross respond. For her efforts, she was selected from more than 24,000 nominees to receive a Spirit of Community Award.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, created by Prudential Financial in partnership

with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, constitute America's largest youth recognition program based exclusively on volunteer service. The award was created with the intent to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example.

Erin should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud Erin for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can and do play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Erin for all that she has done.

SADDAM HUSSEIN

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article to be included in the RECORD:

[From The Halifax Daily News, Feb. 11, 2003]
THE WRONG QUESTION: IT'S NOT WHETHER SADDAM HAS CHEMICAL WEAPONS, IT'S WHETHER HE'LL USE THEM

(By Gwynne Dyer)

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell did a good job at the United Nations last week of laying out the evidence that Saddam Hussein has kept some of the chemical and biological weapons that he had before the Gulf War of 1990-91, and maybe even made more since then. If you doubted it before, you shouldn't doubt it any more. But it was the right answer to the wrong question.

Saddam should be forced to comply with his obligations and destroy all those weapons, but if you are planning to launch a war next month that will probably snuff out tens of thousands of lives, you have to answer a different question. Is there a big enough risk that Saddam will use those weapons himself in the near future, or give them to terrorists to use, to justify pulling the inspectors out and killing all those people now? No, there is not. Saddam Hussein has had these weapons for at least 20 years, and he hasn't given them to anyone in all that time. And why would terrorists need to get these weapons from Iraq anyway, when they could just steal their poison gas from the huge, poorly guarded stocks in Russia (secured, in some cases, with bicycle padlocks)—or mix them up in the kitchen sink like the Aum Shinrikyo cult did for its attacks on the Tokyo subway in 1995?

Besides, Saddam Hussein is no friend of al-Qaida. He is the kind of Arab leader the Islamists hate most: a secular, westernizing socialist who liberates women and makes deals with the West. Osama bin Laden says he is an "infidel" and has been calling for his overthrow for years.

Saddam is a thoroughly nasty dictator, but he is neither mad nor expansionist. In fact, if you were looking for a European parallel to Saddam Hussein's regime, it would be something like Nicolae Ceasescu's long reign in

Communist Romania—except that Ceasescu, safely contained within the Soviet bloc, never had a war with his neighbours.

Saddam Hussein, who is 66 this year, comes from the Arab generation that believed in modernization through revolutionary socialism on the Eastern European model. During the 1970s he behaved like a classic Communist leader, eliminating his rivals but taking the task of raising people's living standards quite seriously. With abundant oil revenues available, he built an Iraq where most people had decent jobs, the children were all in school, and women were freer than anywhere else in the Arab world. Then came the war with Iran, and everything went wrong.

Saddam always dreamed of becoming the hero-leader of the Arab world on the model of Egypt's Gamal Abdul Nasser, which is why he had a nuclear weapons program. (The first Arab leader to acquire a deterrent against Israel's nuclear monopoly automatically becomes an Arab hero.) He never showed any desire to conquer his neighbors, but Iraq did have territorial disputes with Iran and Kuwait, both dating back to before he was born—and he did not manage them well.

He signed a treaty with Iran in 1975 settling the dispute over the Iraq-Iran border, but it unravelled after the Shah was overthrown in 1978, and the new Islamic government of Ayatollah Khomeini began inciting the majority of Iraqi Arabs who share Iran's Shia religious heritage to throw off Saddam's godless socialist rule. In the great blunder of his life, Saddam went to war with Iran in 1980. Iranians outnumber Iraqis three-to-one, and without huge amounts of U.S. aid and those chemical weapons we keep hearing about (which the Reagan administration knew all about), he would not have survived.

Iraq emerged from that war in 1988 with hundreds of thousands dead, the welfare state in ruins—and \$60 billion in debt to its Gulf Arab neighbours. Saddam asked them to cancel the debt, since Iraq's sacrifices had "saved" them from revolutionary Iran. When they refused, he invaded Kuwait (which all the rulers of independent Iraq have claimed as part of Iraq) in August 1990. He thought he had cleared this with his American allies, but neither party understood what the other was saying in his famous conversation with the U.S. ambassador in Baghdad.

When Saddam Hussein contacted U.S. President George W. Bush four days after the invasion and offered the U.S. unlimited Kuwaiti oil at one-third of world market price in return for a deal on Kuwaiti sovereignty, Bush Senior coldly ordered him out of Kuwait. He refused, the Gulf War followed, and he has been under UN sanctions ever since, clinging to power in the ruins of the country he once raised to prosperity. He has been a disaster for Iraq, but he is not the new Hitler. He is not even a visceral anti-American, though U.S.-Iraqi relations have been bitterly hostile since 1990.

So, the right questions are: is Saddam likely to give chemical or biological weapons to the Islamist terrorists he loathes this month or next, when he has not done so in the past 20 years? If not, why do we need a war with Iraq now that will kill a great many people with old-fashioned high explosives?

INTRODUCTION OF THE COLORADO NORTHERN FRONT RANGE MOUNTAIN BACKDROP PROTECTION STUDY ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am again introducing the Colorado Northern Front Range Mountain Backdrop Protection Study Act. I introduced a similar bill in the 107th Congress.

The bill is intended to help local communities identify ways to protect the Front Range Mountain Backdrop in the northern sections of the Denver-metro area, especially the region just west of the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology site. The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest includes much of the land in this backdrop area, but there are other lands involved as well.

Rising dramatically from the Great Plains, the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains provides a scenic mountain backdrop to many communities in the Denver metropolitan area and elsewhere in Colorado. The portion of the range within and adjacent to the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest also includes a diverse array of wildlife habitats and provides many opportunities for outdoor recreation.

The open-space character of this mountain backdrop is an important esthetic and economic asset for adjoining communities, making them attractive locations for homes and businesses. But rapid population growth in the northern Front Range area of Colorado is increasing recreational use of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest and is also placing increased pressure for development of other lands within and adjacent to that national forest.

We can see this throughout Colorado and especially along the Front Range. Homes and shopping centers are sprawling up valleys and along highways that feed into the Front Range. This development then spreads out along the ridges and mountain tops that make up the backdrop. We are in danger of losing to development many of the qualities that have helped attract new residents. So, it is important to better understand what steps might be taken to avoid or lessen that risk—and this bill is designed to help us do just that.

Already, local governments and other entities have provided important protection for portions of this mountain backdrop, especially in the northern Denver-metro area. However, some portions of the backdrop in this part of Colorado remain unprotected and are at risk of losing their open-space qualities. This bill acknowledges the good work of the local communities to preserve open spaces along the backdrop and aims to assist further efforts along the same lines.

The bill does not interfere with the authority of local authorities regarding land use planning. It also does not infringe on private property rights. Instead, it will bring the land protection experience of the Forest Service to the table to assist local efforts to protect areas that comprise the backdrop. The bill envisions that to the extent the Forest Service should be involved with federal lands, it will work in collaboration with local communities, the state and private parties.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe it is in the national interest for the federal government to assist local communities to identify ways to protect the mountain backdrop in this part of Colorado. The backdrop beckoned settlers westward and presented an imposing impediment to their forward progress that suggested similar challenges ahead. This first exposure to the harshness and humbling majesty of the Rocky Mountain West helped define a region. The pioneers' independent spirit and respect for nature still lives with us to this day. We need to work to preserve it by protecting the mountain backdrop as a cultural and natural heritage for ourselves and generations to come. God may forgive us for our failure to do so, but our children won't.

For the information of our colleagues, I am attaching a fact sheet about this bill.

COLORADO NORTHERN FRONT RANGE MOUNTAIN BACKDROP PROTECTION STUDY ACT

Generally: The bill would help local communities preserve the Front Range Mountain Backdrop in the northern sections of the Denver-metro area in a region generally west of the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology site.

Front Range Mountain Backdrop: The backdrop consists of the mountainous foothills, the Continental Divide and the peaks in between that create the striking visual backdrop of the Denver-metro area and throughout Colorado. Development in the Denver-metro area is encroaching in the Front Range backdrop area, and thus adversely affecting the esthetic, wildlife, open space and recreational qualities of this geographic feature. Now is the time to shape the future of this part of the Front Range. There is a real but fleeting opportunity to protect both protect Rocky Flats—a "crown jewel" of open space and wildlife habitat—and to assist local communities to protect the scenic, wildlife, and other values of the mountain backdrop.

WHAT THE BILL DOES:

Study and Report: The bill requires the Forest Service to study the ownership patterns of the lands comprising the Front Range Mountain Backdrop in a region generally west of Rocky Flats, identify areas that are open and may be at risk of development, and recommend to Congress how these lands might be protected and how the federal government could help local communities and residents to achieve that goal.

Lands Covered: The bill identifies the lands in southern Boulder, northern Jefferson and eastern Gilpin Counties in the Second Congressional District; specifically, an area west of Rocky Flats and west of Highway 93, south of Boulder Canyon, east of the Peak-to-Peak Highway, and north of the Golden Gate Canyon State Park road.

WHAT THE BILL WOULD NOT DO:

Affect Local Planning: The bill is designed to complement existing local efforts to preserve open lands in this region west of Rocky Flats. It will not take the place of—nor disrupt—these existing local efforts.

Affect Private Property Rights: The bill merely authorizes a study. It will not affect any existing private property rights.

Affect the Cleanup of Rocky Flats: The bill would not affect the ongoing cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats nor detract from funding for that effort, and will not affect existing efforts to preserve the options for wildlife and open space protection of Rocky Flats itself.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOILERMAKERS LOCAL 363

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th Anniversary of Boilermakers Local 363.

The International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers was born on September 1, 1893. On that day, at a meeting in Chicago, representatives from the International Brotherhood of Boiler Makers and Iron Ship Builders, which had been organized on October 1, 1880, and the National Brotherhood of Boiler Makers, which had been formed in Atlanta in May of 1888, resolved to consolidate their organizations. It was further agreed that the new organization, to be known as the Brotherhood of Boiler Makers and Iron Ship Builders of America, would make its Headquarters in Kansas City, Kansas. Two and a half years later, on June 9, 1896, the Brotherhood affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

In subsequent years, the Brotherhood continued to grow, and in 1902, the Helpers division was formed. Because helpers were barred from sitting in the lodge room with mechanics, this new division had its own local unions and was entirely separate from the Boiler Makers. This would change a decade later when the Helpers Division would be consolidated with the Mechanics Division.

In March 1906, at a special Convention in Kansas City, the name of the Union was changed to the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders and Helpers of America in order to incorporate the newest division. Also at this time, the term "Boiler Makers" was condensed into one word, "Boilermakers."

The Boilermakers affiliated with the National Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor in February 1931. At the turn of the century, total membership stood at about 8,500, but by 1944, due in part to dramatic increases in the shipbuilding, railroad, and fabrication shop industries during World War II, the Boilermakers numbered over 350,000. In 1954, the Boilermakers merged their organization with the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, Drop Forgers and Helpers. The International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths had been organized in 1889 and added Helpers to both their membership and their name in 1901. A 1919 merger with the Brotherhood of Drop Forgers created the Union that, on June 29, 1953, merged with the Boilermakers to create the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers. A year later, a new International seal was adopted to include all crafts.

On October 1, 1954, the Boilermaker National Health and Welfare Fund was established, on November 9, 1959, the Boilermakers National Joint Apprenticeship Fund began, and the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust became effective October 1, 1960. Delegates to the 1977 Convention voted to establish a Construction Division at International Headquarters for the purpose of

servicing those members with employment in, or related to, the construction industry.

On March 15, 1984, the delegates to the Special Merger Convention of the United Cement, Lime, Gypsum and Allied Workers International Union voted to merge with the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers. The merger of the CLGAW, formed in 1936, and its ten thousand members who dominate the building products and supplies industry, and the Boilermakers forged an organization with a greater ability to provide services to its members.

On October 1, 1994, a merger was consummated with the Stove, Furnace and Allied Appliance Workers International Union—a skilled trade union that was organized in 1891. The Stove Workers, with 5,800 members, became a Division of the International Brotherhood known as the Stove, Furnace, Energy and Allied Appliance Workers Division. The word energy was inserted to give special recognition to the coal miners within that Division. The Division had its members employed primarily in the manufacturing of stoves and various types of appliances.

During the same period, merger talks were also being carried out with an independent union known as the Western Energy Workers. This one-local union, formed in 1978 with members employed in the coal strip pits, signed a merger agreement with the Boilermakers effective December 1, 1994.

In October 1996, a merger agreement was made with the Metal Polishers, Buffers, Platers and Allied Workers International Union. This union was also an old line, skill trade union that was organized in 1892. This merger brought 4,000 new members to the Brotherhood. These members are employed primarily in plating and polishing shops within the United States and Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the past, present and future members of the Boilermakers International Union, Local 363 on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE PROCEDURES FOR TEA 21 REAUTHORIZATION

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Representative BILL LIPINSKI, the Ranking Democratic Member of the Subcommittee on Highways, Transit and Pipelines, Representative DON YOUNG, the Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and Representative JIM OBERSTAR, the Committee's Ranking Democratic Member, I would like to outline the Subcommittee's procedure for identifying items of concern to Members as we take up the reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21). This legislation authorized \$218 billion for our Nation's highway, transit, motor carrier, highway safety and research programs for 6 years and is due to expire on September 30, 2003.

The importance of the surface transportation systems to our Nation's economic health cannot be overstated. Highway and transit investments stimulate economic activity. These investments increase productivity by decreasing time spent on the road, encouraging new economic development, and increasing property values. Transportation investment generates a 6-to-1 net return on investment. The linchpin of economic vitality is free movement of people and goods. In the U.S., more than 75 percent of the Nation's freight moves on highways—an annual value to the economy of more than \$5 trillion. And, for every \$1 billion in federal highway and transit spending, more than 42,000 jobs are created or sustained.

Despite the gains of TEA 21, transportation investment has fallen short of what is needed. The Department of Transportation estimates that the cost to improve highway and transit conditions to optimal levels would require more than doubling our current combined federal program size to \$74 billion per year. Meeting these needs will require a variety of strategies, including better use of existing systems, application of advanced technology, innovative financing, and public-private partnerships. It is our goal to develop a bill that increases transportation investment to improve and maintain this world-class system.

Reauthorization is the top priority of the Subcommittee on Highways, Transit and Pipelines. In the second session of the 107th Congress, the Subcommittee held a series of 17 TEA 21 oversight hearings and received testimony from 140 witnesses. The hearings gave many interested Members, the Administration and affected groups the opportunity to testify and present their views. We would be happy to make copies of these hearing transcripts available to any interested Members.

We anticipate that the bipartisan legislation we develop this year will be based largely on the information obtained at last year's extensive programmatic hearings. As we begin the process this year, we would like to encourage Members to inform the Subcommittee about any policy initiatives that they want the Subcommittee to consider in the reauthorization of TEA 21. Members having such specific policy requests should inform the Subcommittee in writing no later than March 14, 2003.

Many Members have already contacted the Subcommittee to inquire about, or to request, specific funding for critical transportation needs in their districts. On January 8, 2003, Transportation Committee Chairman DON YOUNG and Ranking Member JIM OBERSTAR sent a Dear Colleague that included a 21-question evaluation form for consideration of projects of importance to members. This form is reprinted in its entirety below. All project requests should be submitted no later than March 14, 2003. (Please note that this is a 2-week extension beyond the original deadline of February 28th.) Such submissions should be transmitted to us via the intranet website, <http://ushrtrans.house.gov>, and in writing, attached to a signed letter on the letterhead of the sponsoring Member.

We will also be holding a series of Subcommittee hearings in March and April, at which time Members and local officials will have an opportunity to testify on behalf of those requests. While these hearings are intended to give Members an opportunity to present information about specific project needs and policy requests, it is not necessary for Members to testify.

We look forward to working with all Members of the House as we prepare this important legislation that will set the course for our nation's surface transportation programs.

TRANSPORTATION PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND PIPELINES

1. Name and Congressional District of the primary Member of Congress sponsoring the project.

2. Other Members supporting the project.

3. If the project is a highway project, identify the State or other qualified recipient responsible for carrying out the project.

4. If the project is a transit project, please identify the project sponsor (must be an eligible recipient of Federal transit funds).

5. Please categorize the project. (Check one)

Highway or bridge

Transit rail new start

Bus, bus equipment, or bus facility

Intermodal facility (passenger)

Intermodal facility (freight)

Bicycle and Pedestrian

Other (please identify)

6. Is the project eligible for the use of Federal-aid highway or transit funds under Title 23 or Title 49 of the United States Code?

7. If the project is a highway or bridge project, is it on the National Highway System?

8. Briefly describe the total project.

a. Is it part of a larger system of projects?

b. What is the total estimated cost of the project?

9. Please identify the specific segment for which project funding is being sought, including terminus points.

10. What dollar amount are you requesting in the authorization for this project or segment of a project?

11. Project Schedule:

a. What is the proposed schedule and status of work on the project?

b. What is the current stage of development of the project? (If the project is a transit new start, please specify whether the project is in alternative analysis, preliminary engineering, final design, has been issued a record of decision, under environmental review, or already has a current full funding grant agreement.)

c. Will the requested funding for the project be obligated within the next six years?

12. Project Plan:

a. Is the project part of the State's long-range plan?

b. Is the project included in the metropolitan and/or State Transportation Improvement Program(s)?

13. Is the project considered by the State and/or regional transportation officials as critical to their needs? Please provide a letter of support from these officials, and if you cannot, explain why not.

14. Does the project have national or regional significance? Describe.

15. Has the proposed project encountered, or is it likely to encounter, any significant opposition or other obstacles based on environmental or other types of concerns? If yes, please describe.

16. Describe the economic, environmental, congestion mitigation, and safety benefits associated with completion of the project.

17. Has the project already received funding through the State's federal-aid highway or transit formula apportionments or from other Federal, State, local, or private funds? If yes, how much and from what source?

18. Has the project received funding in a previous authorization act?

19. If the project has received funding in a previous authorization act, please cite the act(s) and amount(s) authorized.

20. Has the project received funding in a previous appropriations act?

21. If the project has received funding in a previous appropriations act, please cite the act(s) and amount(s) appropriated.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 18 and 19 on February 5th, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

INTRODUCTION OF THE URBAN SPRAWL AND SMART GROWTH STUDY ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the "Urban Sprawl and Smart Growth Study Act." This bill, similar to one I introduced in the 107th Congress, is designed to shine a bright light on the influence of federal actions on urban sprawl and assure that federal agencies consider how their actions may add to this problem.

Mr. Speaker, communities in Colorado throughout the country are struggling to preserve their special charter and quality of life in the face of burgeoning populations. Especially in the West and South, extreme population growth has resulted in the continual build-out of cities and the loss of surrounding farmland and open space. In my state, this growth is also spreading along interstate highways into the mountain valleys and forested regions. The resulting sprawl is creating congested highways, more air pollution, overtaxed city services, and crowded schools and shopping centers.

According to the recent census, Colorado is one of the most rapidly growing states. Between 1990 and 2000, the population growth in the United States was 13.1 percent. During the same period, Colorado's growth was 30.6 percent! And in many of our counties, the rate was even higher. What does this mean?

The City of Broomfield has grown so much that it has now become its own county. Traffic is so heavy in the area that Congress appropriated \$1 million to study a new interchange at the intersection of U.S. 36 and Highway 287.

The cities of Fort Collins, Loveland, and Greeley are growing so fast, it's becoming difficult to tell where one ends and the other begins. These three cities are likely to become one in the next 10 years.

The south Denver portion of Interstate 25 near the Tech Center not only services the many offices in that area, but metro area sprawl has added more houses and towns on that end of Denver. Traffic is always bad there, no matter what time of day, and rush hour starts earlier and last longer now too.

Citizens in Colorado are asking their leaders to address the symptoms of sprawl and to

help them control and manage growth more effectively. We got started with this effort in 1994, when then Governor Roy Romer initiated his "Smart Growth and Development Initiative." That initiative focused attention on the problems of sprawl, the unevenness of growth (some rural areas welcome more development), and the role of federal, state and local governments in creating and managing sprawl and its impacts.

Other states from North Carolina and Georgia to California and Oregon have been experiencing similar growth problems. Many are developing processes and mechanisms to deal with these problems. Some states have used growth control legislation creating urban service areas. Others have relied on their local communities to slow down or temporarily cease the issuance of building permits. Many have appropriated funds or created sales tax initiatives to purchase and protect open spaces and agricultural lands.

All of this has been done with an understanding that state and local governments are in the best place to plan for and manage growth and sprawl issues. Armed with zoning and other authorities, they are best suited to gauge the pulse of their citizens and determine where, when and how growth should best occur.

But the efforts of state, local and tribal governments to plan for and manage urban growth and sprawl can be thwarted by actions taken at the federal level. A well-developed plan by a local community can be swept aside by the routing of a major highway or the construction of a poorly cited post office. The cumulative effects of a number of smaller federal actions and policies together create or foster the very sprawl that communities have fought so hard to control.

NEED FOR LEGISLATION

The bill I am reintroducing today is designed to focus attention on the many federal decisions and projects that can either foster or ameliorate sprawl. It does this through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), one of our nation's premier environmental laws. It requires all federal agencies to evaluate their activities and projects for social and environmental impacts and thereby take steps to avoid or mitigate these impacts.

Specifically, NEPA requires all federal agencies to include for all "major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment" a detailed statement by the responsible official on the environmental impacts of the proposed action, any adverse environmental effects that can't be avoided, alternatives to the action, the relationship between local short-term uses of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity, and any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources should it be implemented.

This is what is essentially required of an environmental impact statement (EIS). It is not, itself, a decision making document but is meant to guide agencies in making important decisions.

Generally speaking, most federal agencies have done a reasonably good job in implementing NEPA. However, when it comes to the cumulative impacts and indirect effects of federal actions—such as on sprawl—much of the NEPA analysis has not been adequate. Too often, federal agencies look at the specific, localized impacts of a proposed project

and neglect to review the broader "spill-over" impacts that it may have on a region.

This observation was in fact identified in a September 2000 General Accounting Office report entitled "Community Development: Local Growth Issues—Federal Opportunities and Challenges." This report looked at the various ways that federal actions can foster sprawl or assist communities to better address sprawl impacts.

The report also noted that although NEPA provides that federal agencies review the "indirect and cumulative" impacts of federal actions or projects (such as sprawl), often that review is rather thin and not well explored. The report noted that when it comes to evaluating the "indirect and cumulative" effects of proposed federal actions (such as highways), "few agencies consider the effect of a proposed [federal] project on growth" in their NEPA reviews.

Contributing to this is the fact that Federal agencies often substitute an environmental assessment for a full EIS. On average, in recent years, Federal agencies prepared 30,000 to 50,000 environmental assessments annually compared to only 500 to 700 EIS's.

An environmental assessment is usually much shorter and less comprehensive than a full EIS. Generally, the purpose of the assessment is to help determine whether a proposed action would result in an impact significant enough to require preparation of an EIS. Unlike an EIS, however, the treatment of alternatives is often cursory. No formal public review or comment process is required. Indeed, it is difficult to obtain a copy of an assessment, since there is no requirement that it be made publicly available nor is it sent to a public repository.

CEQ STUDY

The bill that I am introducing today will address these problems. Specifically, this bill would direct the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), the agency that implements NEPA, to study how well federal agencies evaluate sprawl impacts of proposed federal action in conducting their environmental reviews. CEQ has done this type of review in the past. In 1974, CEQ studied the impacts of sprawl and produced a report entitled "The Costs of Sprawl." In 1981, the CEQ also looked at the loss of agricultural land due to sprawl in its study entitled "National Agricultural Lands Study."

My bill would require the CEQ to update these studies by reviewing a variety of EISes and environmental assessments from at least 15 federal agencies. CEQ would analyze how well these documents have examined the impacts of proposed Federal actions on growth and urban sprawl. Among the programs to be reviewed are land management programs, such as those in the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture and Defense and the General Services Administration; transportation programs, such as those of the Federal Highway Administration and other agencies within the Department of Transportation; regulatory programs, such as those of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; and development assistance programs such as those in the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to name a few.

The bill further requires the CEQ to involve the public in this review by holding hearings in at least different regions throughout the country that are experiencing an increase in urban

sprawl. A city like Denver or Boulder would be a prime place, along with others in the northeast, south, mid and far west.

Within 18 months, the CEQ would be required to provide a report to the Congress on its review. This report would include findings concerning the economic, environmental and land use effects of urban sprawl. It would describe how well federal agencies have been examining the sprawl impacts of their actions and projects, and make recommendations on how their environmental reviews can be improved.

CEQ would also make recommendations for nonregulatory actions that Federal agencies can take to assist States and local communities in promoting the beneficial effects of smart growth and to minimize actions by the agencies that result in adverse effects of urban sprawl.

CONSULTATION

The bill also does one other very important thing. It would require greater interaction between the federal agencies and those persons affected by agency decisions.

As the effect of federal actions or projects will be most acutely felt at the state and local level (including by Indian Tribes), it is critical that federal agencies work with them to ensure that growth and urban sprawl effects are addressed in Federal environmental reviews.

In that regard, the bill would require federal agencies to be more open early in the process of preparing environmental assessments as well as EISes. Agencies would be required to notify persons that may be significantly affected by the proposed action, including each State and local government, Indian tribe and private property owner. Agencies must conduct discussions with such persons on their proposed actions and alternatives, and seek to address their concerns, if any.

This process would assure a more thorough NEPA analysis if a state governor or a lead local or tribal governmental official requested the preparation of a full EIS, due to the proposed project's impact on urban sprawl. Although the decision is not dictated by such a request, the agency would be required to give it great weight in deciding to whether to do an EIS.

Through this process, state, local and tribal governments extra power to make sure that the sprawl impacts of federal actions or projects are thoroughly identified and reviewed—and potentially mitigated or addressed. In so doing, the bill would help communities plan for and manage such impacts to their communities and help federal agencies develop actions and projects that do not exacerbate sprawl.

Obviously, this bill addresses just one federal dynamic related to sprawl. There are hosts of other ways that the federal government can help communities address sprawl issues and retain their quality of life. These include federal assistance for open space purchases, providing incentives to preserve and keep agricultural land productive, affordable housing assistance, alternative energy planning, mass transit options, and so on.

But the first step in helping communities grapple with growth and sprawl is to give them the tools they need and to make sure that federal policies and action are not working at cross purposes. My bill is an attempt to increase the coordination between federal actions and local efforts so that communities can

preserve the quality of life for their citizens and still grow in a positive, more sustainable and livable fashion. It is our obligation as federal officials to make sure the federal role is similarly positive, complementary and preserves quality of life.

OVERVIEW—URBAN SPRAWL AND SMART GROWTH STUDY ACT

SUMMARY

Federal actions and projects can significantly impact the ability of States, Tribes and local governments to plan for and manage growth and urban sprawl. The Urban Sprawl and Smart Growth Study Act would help address these impacts in two ways:

(1) Direct the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to review how well federal agencies are considering the impacts their actions have on urban growth and sprawl; and

(2) Require Federal agencies to give greater weight to the input of state, local and tribal officials in considering these impacts.

BACKGROUND

One mechanism to address the federal role in sprawl is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This Act requires federal agencies to analyze the social and environmental impacts of major actions and to take timely steps to avoid or minimize these impacts. A September 2000 GAO report, "Community Development: Local Growth Issues—Federal Opportunities and Challenges" identified this mechanism and noted that federal agencies could do a better job of reviewing projects for sprawl impacts.

What the bill does:

Smart Growth Study: The bill would require the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to review environmental documents of at least 15 federal agencies and examine how well they are considering urban sprawl and growth impacts of their projects.

Public Participation: In conducting this review, CEQ would be required to hold at least 5 public hearings throughout the country to gather public input on the adequacy of the review of growth and sprawl impacts of federal action or projects.

Smart Growth Report: CEQ would be required to issue a report to Congress on its findings and make recommendations on how federal agencies could do better in incorporating potential sprawl impacts in environmental reviews.

Comments on Sprawl: Agencies would be required to include written comments of sprawl impacts of federal actions or projects as part of Federal environmental documents.

State, Local and Tribal Governmental Consultation: In preparing environmental documents, federal agencies would notify affected state, local and tribal governments, who could then request that the agency conduct a more thorough environmental analysis under NEPA if the project would have an effect on sprawl. Federal agencies would be required to give great weight to such requests and document their decisions in writing.

What the bill does NOT do:

Amend or alter NEPA: The bill does not amend or otherwise alter NEPA and the rules and procedures adopted under this law.

Address the Totality of the Federal Role on Sprawl and Growth: The bill does not attempt to address the full range of federal policies and actions that can have effects on growth and sprawl; it focuses on the environmental analyses that are required under NEPA.

Overturn any particular Federal Action or Project: The bill does not overturn past Federal decisions, but would increase the coordination between federal actions and local efforts so that communities can preserve the quality of life for their citizens and still

grow in a positive, more sustainable and livable fashion.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SPECIAL CHILDREN INCORPORATED

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Special Children Incorporated of Belleville, Illinois.

Special Children Incorporated is a not-for-profit organization which began in 1953 as "The Parent Group for Mentally Retarded Children, Incorporated", when a group of parents came together to address their concerns over a lack of appropriate education for children with special needs. After developing and holding classes in local churches and homes, a permanent site was constructed in 1971 at 1306 Wabash Avenue in Belleville. A 10,000 square foot addition was completed in 1993 to meet the expanding needs of the agency. This building was constructed completely from the fundraising efforts of parents and community volunteers.

Special Children, Inc. continues to provide services for individuals in the St. Clair, Monroe, Randolph and Madison county area. The mission of Special Children, Inc., is to provide educational and early intervention services to children developmentally and or physically disabled from birth through 21 years of age and to provide education and support to the parent/guardian in hopes that these children can continue to reside in the most supportive and least restrictive environments.

Mamie O. Stookey School is approved by the Illinois State Board of Education as a Non-Public Facility in the State of Illinois to educate trainable mentally handicapped and severe profound handicapped students. Special Children develops an individual education plan, which provides a comprehensive assessment of the student's health, education, and social needs. An interdisciplinary team trained to provide specialized pediatric treatment is provided, as is a low pupil-teacher ratio. Special Children also provides for an adaptive physical education program including swimming, bowling, and adaptive therapescrotoscrotoutic playground. Daily progress reports to the family/guardian of each student are given as well as linkage and coordination to other community resources.

The program has eight self-contained classrooms that provide individualized instruction in the area of motor skills, language and communications, socialization; self help skills of daily living, and pre-vocational activities. The program focuses on a developmental curriculum, which include a variety of support services; Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy consultation, adaptive physical education, social services, and nursing.

The family has the primary responsibility for the child's early learning environment. What happens in these early years is crucial to the child's success during the school year. Born of this belief and commitment to help parents of young developmentally delayed children do their job more effectively and enjoyably, the

PRIME/CARE program started in 1974. An Individual Family Service Plan (I.F.S.P.) provides a comprehensive assessment of the child and family's health as well as their education and social needs. An interdisciplinary team has also been trained to provide specialized pediatric treatment and case management. Special Children follows an interagency approach to treatment designed to enhance coordination and ease the transition between medical, social, and educational services in the community.

Special Children provides for comprehensive developmental assessment at referral and also schedules assessments by other professionals for coordination and individualized planning. They provide progress review and a program update every three months. All assessed, but not eligible, children are referred to appropriate community resources. Special Children Service teams represent these area disciplines; Special Instruction, Speech and Language Therapy, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Social Work and Service Coordination

Additional Special Children Services include; PRIME (home based)—Weekly home visits, CARE (toddler Classroom), Parent Support Groups and a Parent Education Group. Special Children Inc. also serves Newborns Through Two Year Olds, primarily infants at risk for developmental disabilities as the result of prenatal, perinatal and neonatal factors; such as: severe respiratory distress, prematurity, seizures and feeding problems. Special Children also treats infants and toddlers with diagnosed medical disorders such as; Rubella, Tuberos Sclerosis, Cerebral Palsy, Microcephaly and Down's syndrome. Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers with delayed development (25 percent or more) in one or more areas are also treated for analysis in: cognition, expressive language, receptive language, fine motor development, gross motor development and affective/social/emotional development.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 50th Anniversary of Special Children Incorporated and recognize the work that they do in the community to benefit the health, safety and welfare of children.

THE DIETARY SUPPLEMENT INFORMATION ACT AND THE EPHEDRINE ALKALOID CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am re-introducing two bills that address an important public health issue: the safety of dietary supplements. Walk into any neighborhood drug store or discount store and you will find yourself surrounded by a variety of dietary supplements. Their labels tout promises ranging from "safe and easy" weight loss to increased muscle gain to lower cholesterol. However, dietary supplements are not subject to rigorous safety or efficacy standards and face only limited regulatory oversight under federal law.

My bills will protect consumers and increase the flow of information to the public. They will

give the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) the authority it needs to make informative and scientific decisions about the safety of dietary supplements.

The Dietary Supplement Information Act requires manufacturers, producers and distributors of dietary supplements to register with the FDA. They would be required to submit all serious adverse event reports to the FDA within 15 days. Supplement manufacturers and the FDA will work as partners to investigate and analyze these reports. To make sure that consumers know how to report an incident to the FDA directly, my legislation will require the FDA's MedWatch phone number and website to be printed on all dietary supplement product labels. If the FDA determines that a specific supplement may have serious health consequences, it can require the manufacturer to do a postmarket surveillance study to ensure that the product is safe.

Many of these dietary supplements contain ephedra, also commonly listed as ma-huang or ephedrine alkaloids. Sadly, a number of consumers, including some of my own constituents, have experienced adverse reactions after using ephedra-based supplements. Lured in by product claims of more energy, quick weight loss or improved athletic performance, consumers experienced depression, agitation, heart attacks, and strokes. In some cases, people have died after taking ephedra supplements. These severe effects demand increased public awareness, especially since the average customer profile includes young people.

The Ephedrine Alkaloid Consumer Protection Act gives consumers information about the potentially lethal side effects and drug interactions of ephedrine alkaloid products. First, it will require a standardized warning to be printed on the label. The bill will also make sure that consumers know how to report any concerns or adverse reactions by requiring the FDA's MedWatch phone number and website to be printed on the product label. Finally, the bill will protect our kids by prohibiting the sale of ephedrine to minors. No person under the age of 18 years old will be able to buy ephedrine products.

To ensure that this provision is enforced, products will be kept "behind the counter" so that sales personnel are more aware of the age restriction. Putting the product behind the counter will also make adults more aware of the risks associated with ephedra. If they have to ask for assistance to get the product, they will be more likely to read the warning label and talk to the pharmacist about possible side effects.

Since I first introduced these bills two years ago, momentum has clearly grown for improving consumer safety regarding ephedra. I have seen a growing number of organizations that are addressing the issue on their own. The American Medical Association and its Canadian counterpart recommend banning ephedra. The National Football League recently joined the ranks of the International Olympic Committee, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association in prohibiting ephedra use among their athletes.

Collaborating developments in the science community and courtrooms support these actions. A recent study conducted by the University of California at San Francisco reported that dietary supplements containing ephedra accounted for 64 percent of all adverse event reports related to dietary supplements. The emergence of "ephedra-free" products indi-

cates conflict within the industry, possibly a sign that the supplement industry is also slowly realizing the negative effects of ephedra. Allegations against ephedra supplement manufacturers include sloppy research practices, the omission or destruction of negative research data, study design violations, unreported adverse events, along with deception and fraud. In fact, last year a jury in Alabama awarded \$4.1 million to four people who suffered strokes or heart attacks after taking ephedra diet pills.

Despite the growing list of allies and evidence, there is still much work left to do within our own communities. Earlier this year, I received a compelling letter from a young woman in San Diego. She said,

"Being a 23-year-old woman, I am exposed to hundreds of diet pills and the need to be thin. One of my dear friends had a stroke from taking an over-the-counter diet pill. She went from a coma, to a vegetable, graduated to a wheelchair and now walks with a cane one year later. She is unable to go to school or work and cannot function as a normal 23-year-old."

"These dietary supplements are dangerous and harmful. People do not realize the consequences of these magical pills. They are given the notion that they are going to become this "model-type image" from taking supplements, but the adverse effects of them outweigh any benefits."

It is heartbreaking to think of how an innocent purchase irrevocably changed this young woman's life. Ephedra has opened eyes about the need for regulation of the entire dietary supplement industry. Ephedra is a symptom, a deadly symptom, of a larger issue, which is the lack of regulatory control over a multibillion dollar industry.

A change in the current law is critically needed. The FDA must be allowed to collect and distribute accurate information about dietary supplements. At present, its hands are tied. I want to make it very clear that my legislation will not ban dietary supplements. Rather, they offer a common-sense approach to giving the FDA the authority to regulate the industry while maintaining freemarket access. Consumers have a right to know what they are putting into their bodies. We cannot continue to stand on the sidelines and watch them suffer serious medical consequences from these products. Our young people and loved ones are at risk.

I urge my colleagues in Congress to join me in swiftly passing these two bills into law.

THE COURAGE TO DREAM

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, risk and danger are constant companions of progress. And last Saturday morning, we were reminded again that progress at times inflicts a painful price.

Fate has called the brave crew members of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* home, and, here on Earth, we maintain our faith that they have now begun a far better journey—one of our Creator's design.

Words are small comfort today to those closest to this tragedy, the families and friends of Rick Husband, William McCool, Michael Anderson, Kalpana Chawla, David Brown, Laurel Clark and Illan Ramon. A grateful Nation

mourns their loss and honors their courage and sacrifice.

We also offer heartfelt condolences to those left behind, especially the twelve children who have lost a mother or father. We pray that time, and a recognition of this great mission, provide some comfort and help to heal this wound.

The history of America is marked not only by sacrifice in the service of others, but by a yearning to explore, to discover, to progress . . . from the first permanent settlers in the new world at Jamestown . . . to the expedition of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark . . . to the Wright Brothers' first flight at Kitty Hawk . . . to Neil Armstrong's first step on the moon a mere 66 years later.

The crew of the *Columbia* now joins that pantheon of American heroes who had the courage to dream, as well as the willingness to turn their vision into reality.

Although they traveled millions of miles in space, they sought answers to the questions that lie closest to the human heart.

The most fitting tribute that we can pay to their legacy is to fulfill this solemn pledge: We will continue the work that you have advanced.

And we will do so with the realization that it is our responsibility to determine the cause of this tragedy and to minimize the risk to those engaged in the exploration of space and the unknown.

Our Nation has always risen to a challenge and overcome adversity through perseverance.

That is a measure of our greatness. And, today, that is the calling that our national character commands us to undertake and continue.

COOPERATIVE LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am again introducing a bill to authorize a program to help states, local governments, and private groups protect open space while enabling ranchers and other private landowners to continue to use their lands for agriculture and other traditional uses.

The bill, entitled the "Cooperative Landscape Conservation Act," is based on provisions that were previously passed by the House as part of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) but on which the Senate did not complete action. It is also similar to a bill I introduced in the 107th Congress.

I think the program that this bill would establish would be good for the entire country and it would be particularly important for Colorado.

In Colorado, as in some other states, we have experienced rapid population growth. That brings with it rising land values and property taxes. This combination is putting ranchers and other landowners under increasing pressure to sell their lands for development. By selling conservation easements instead, they can lessen that pressure, capture much of the increased value of the land, and allow the land to continue to be used for traditional purposes.

That's why conservation easements are so important for our state. It's why the state and many local governments are interested in acquiring conservation easements on undeveloped lands. It is also why non-profit organizations like the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust and the Nature Conservancy—to name just two of many—work to help ranchers and other property owners to make these arrangements and so avoid the need to sell agricultural lands to developers.

I strongly support this approach. Of course, by itself it is not enough—it is still important for governments at all levels to acquire full ownership of land in appropriate cases. But in many other instances acquiring a conservation easement is more appropriate for conservation and other public purposes, more cost-effective for the taxpayers, and better for ranchers and other landowners who want to keep their lands in private ownership.

But while it is usually less costly to acquire a conservation easement than to acquire full ownership, it is often not cheap—and in some critical cases can be more than a community or a nonprofit group can raise without some help. That is where my bill would come in.

Under the bill, the Secretary of the Interior would be authorized to provide funds, on a 50 percent match basis, to supplement local resources available for acquiring a conservation easement. For that purpose, the bill would authorize appropriation of \$100 million per year for each of the next 6 fiscal years—similar to the amount that would have been authorized by the CARA legislation that the House passed last year.

The bill provides that the Secretary would give priority to helping acquire easements in areas—such as Colorado that are experiencing rapid population growth and where increasing land values are creating development pressures that threaten the traditional uses of private lands and the ability to maintain open space. Within those high-growth areas, priority would go to acquiring easements that would provide the greatest conservation benefits while maintaining the traditional uses—whether agricultural or some other uses—of the lands involved.

The bill would not involve any federal land acquisitions, and it would not involve any federal regulation of land uses—conservation easements acquired using these funds would be governed solely under state law.

Mr. Speaker, the national government has primary responsibility for protecting the special parts of the federal lands and for managing those lands in ways that will maintain their resources and values—including their undeveloped character—as a legacy for future generations. Regarding other lands, the challenge of responding to growth and sprawl is primarily the responsibility of the states and tribes, the local governments, and private organizations and groups—but the federal government can help.

This bill would provide help, in a practical and cost-effective way. For the information of our colleagues, I am attaching a summary of its main provisions.

DIGEST OF "COOPERATIVE LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION ACT"

The bill is based on provisions included in the House-passed Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) legislation of the 106th

Congress. It would provide federal financial assistance to states, local governments, Indian tribes, and private groups working to preserve open space by acquiring conservation easements.

Background: In Colorado and other rapidly-growing states, rising land values and property taxes are putting farmers and ranchers (and other landowners) under increasing pressure to sell their lands for development. By selling conservation easements instead, they can lessen that pressure, capture much of the increased value of the land, and allow the land to continue to be used for traditional purposes. The party acquiring the conservation easement would have an enforceable property right to prevent development.

WHAT THE BILL WOULD DO

Program—The bill would establish the "Cooperative Landscape Conservation Program," to be administered by the Department of the Interior. The program would provide grants to assist qualified recipients to acquire conservation easements.

Funding—Bill would authorize appropriations of \$100 million/year for fiscal years 2002 through 2007. Funds would be used for grants, would be on a 50%-50% matching basis, for purchase of conservation easements on private lands in order to provide wildlife, fisheries, open space, recreation, or other public benefits consistent with the continuation of traditional uses by the private landowners. Up to 10% of annual funds could be used by Interior Department to provide technical assistance.

Priority—(1) Priority for grants would be to help acquire easements in areas where rapid population growth and increasing land values are creating development pressures that threaten traditional uses of land and the ability to maintain open space; (2) within those areas, priority would go for acquiring easements that would provide the greatest conservation benefits while maintaining traditional uses of lands.

Eligible Recipients—would be agencies of state or local government, tribes, and tax-exempt organizations operated principally for conservation.

Enforcement—Only an entity eligible for a grant could hold and enforce an easement acquired with program funds; at time of application, state Attorney General would have to certify that an easement would meet the requirements of state law.

WHAT THE BILL WOULD NOT DO

Bill would NOT involve any federal land acquisition.

Bill would NOT involve any federal regulation of land use.

IN APPRECIATION FOR SHARING AN EXTRAORDINARY STORY

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the story of a brave and resourceful veteran from my district. Recently, I had the pleasure of presenting him with the Distinguished Flying Cross medal—nearly sixty years after the flight engineer saved his plane by repairing it mid-flight.

Ray Huntsinger served as a flight engineer with the United States Army Air Corps, now

the Air Force, during World War II. During a mission to bomb Nazi oil reserves in Romania, Huntsinger's plane suffered damaged from anti-aircraft fire. He examined the plane and found that its hydraulic lines, which affect the air brakes and landing gear, had been ruptured. After notifying the pilot that he would have to make an emergency landing, Huntsinger set to work. Using materials he found on the plane, he constructed a patch over the damaged lines, and he strapped parachutes to the plane's waist to slow it down after landing. After circling the airfield until all emergency vehicles were in place, the pilot began his descent, and executed a perfect landing—the makeshift patch saved the day.

Years later, after retiring to Hot Springs Village, Huntsinger recounted the story to a friend of his who happened to be a retired Air Force Colonel. That friend submitted the story to the Air Force, and almost sixty years after that mid-flight repair, Huntsinger was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross Medal.

I am so pleased to have the opportunity to properly honor one of our veterans. Mr. Huntsinger had an outstanding military career with the U.S. Army Air Corps during the Second World War. He flew fifty combat missions out of Italy, and in the incident that earned him the Flying Cross distinction, he demonstrated incredible ingenuity and resourcefulness, saving the lives of his fellow soldiers as they fought for their country. I welcome any opportunity to thank our veterans and to hear their stories, and this is quite a story!

INTRODUCTION OF THE CLEAN WATER PROTECTION ACT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Clean Water Protection Act, legislation to protect the beauty and quality of our nation's water resources. This legislation would add a definition to the Clean Water Act that would place a specific prohibition on the use of wastes in "fill material" that is placed in waters of the United States. I am pleased that my colleague, Representative Christopher Shays, has joined me in this effort.

This legislation was predicated by an executive rule change on May 3, 2002, that altered the long-standing definition of "fill material" in the Clean Water Act regulations enforced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). The Administration's new definition allows the Corps to permit waste to be used to fill streams, wetlands, and other waters. Importantly, the rule change would have nationwide effects, by allowing all industries to seek permits from the Corps to dump their wastes in waters.

On May 8, 2002, a federal court in West Virginia decided that the Administration's rule change violated the Clean Water Act and was

therefore illegal. Late last month, however, a U.S. appeals court in Richmond reversed the lower court ruling that would have ended the practice of filling rivers and streams with waste rock and dirt from mountaintop removal coal mining operations.

There are far-reaching consequences of the Appellate Court's decision. The Administration's new definition of "fill material" is an attempt to legalize the dumping of countless tons of mountaintop removal coal mining waste—a practice that has already burned and destroyed 1,000 miles of Appalachian streams. The new rule also expressly allows hardrock mining waste, construction and demolition debris, and other types of harmful wastes to be dumped into rivers and streams across the country. Given the possible presence of contaminants such as heavy metals, asbestos, or harmful organic compounds in some of these wastes, the implementation of the new definition of "fill material" in the Corps' regulations could have disastrous impacts even beyond the harm caused by burying streams and other waterways. Congress meant for the Clean Water Act to protect our nation's water resources; the Administrative rule change endangers those resources.

The dangerous precedent set by the Administration's rule change undermines the Clean Water Act. This is why I have proposed the Clean Water Protection Act. This legislation would establish a definition for fill material in the Clean Water Act, such that no wastes could be used to bury our streams and wetlands. Creating a statutory definition of "fill material" that expressly excludes waste materials will end the need for further court proceedings and will clarify environmental law consistent with the purpose of the Clean Water Act—to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters.

Clean air and water are not partisan issues; they are issues of vital importance to all Americans. We cannot let the Clean Water Act fade into history as simply a "romantic ideal", but rather we must ensure the protection of our waters, so that our grandchildren have streams to play in and clean water to drink.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to protect the quality and magnificent beauty of our nation's streams and wetlands.

COMMENDING ISRAEL ON THEIR ELECTIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution extending this body's congratulations to Israel on their recent elections. I stand with my colleagues and commend Israel as it continues to conduct democracy in a region filled with dictatorship and totalitarian regimes.

On January 28, 2003, nearly four million Israelis went to the polls to participate in the country's 15th national election since becoming a state in 1948. The election was Israel's 5th in the last decade, and comes at an extremely critical juncture in the country's short

history. An ongoing conflict with the Palestinians, a looming U.S. war against Iraq, the global war on terrorism, and a struggling Israeli economy all played pivotal roles in the campaign. But when all was said and done, Israelis reelected Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, and established a near majority for the Likud Party in the Israeli Knesset. Prime Minister Sharon's victory was especially significant, as it was the first time in 25 years that Israelis reelected a sitting Prime Minister.

As the sole democracy in the Middle East, Israel is the most reliable ally of the United States in the region. I come to the floor today and further express my commitment to a strong U.S.-Israel relationship. Israel has stood by the U.S. in our war on terrorism, and we shall stand with Israel as it continues down the daunting road toward peace and security. Terrorism never has been, and never will be, an ingredient to peace in the Middle East, and the U.S. must stand by Israel in its efforts to protect its borders and its citizens.

Mr. Speaker, each of us has his or her own unique way of expressing our support for Israel and the relationship that the U.S. enjoys with the small Middle Eastern country. Coming to the floor today in support of this resolution is just one way Members can show their support. Traveling to Israel is another. I make my commitment today to visit Israel sometime during the 108th Congress to show my support for the Jewish state, and I urge my colleagues to make similar commitments.

Israel is a place rich with history. It is filled with beauty and its people are filled with kindness and generosity. Members of Congress can make no stronger statement of their support for Israel than to travel there and experience first hand the issues facing Israeli leaders attempting to make peace. I am looking forward to the trip that I am co-hosting over the Memorial Day recess with black and Jewish Members, and I do hope that my colleagues will make similar statements of their support. Only next time, we make them in the streets of a peaceful Jerusalem.

CELEBRATING AFRICAN AMERICAN MONTH

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus and all the black members of Congress that have served this Nation. As America observes African American History Month, I would be remiss not to remember the giants of this institution who made it possible for me to stand before you today. In the 212 years of Congressional History, there has been only 108 black Members of Congress: 104 elected to the House and 4 to the Senate.

In the great State of Florida there have been five black Members of Congress and I have the distinctive honor to serve as one of them.

I want to commend your attention to the first black Member of Congress elected from the State of Florida, Josiah Thomas Walls.

Congressman Josiah Thomas Walls was the only black representative from the State of Florida before reconstruction. He was born,

probably to slavery, in or near Winchester, Virginia, on December 30, 1842. As a child, Josiah Walls moved to Darksville in what is now West Virginia. Josiah Walls briefly attended the county normal school in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and may have received additional education. As a Congressman, Josiah Walls described his impressions into the Confederate army and his capture by Northern forces at the siege of Yorktown, Virginia, in May 1862. By July 1863 he had entered the Third Infantry Regiment, United States Colored Troops at Philadelphia, becoming a corporal in October. Josiah Walls moved with his regiment to Florida in February 1864. After his discharge in October 1865 he worked at a sawmill on the Suwannee River and later taught at Archer in Alachua County.

In 1867, Josiah Walls was elected to represent Alachua County at the 1868 Florida Constitutional Convention. The county convention of March 1868 also nominated Josiah Walls for the state assembly. He was elected, taking his seat in June. Later that same year he was elected to the state senate from the Thirteenth District and took his seat the following January. Josiah Walls participated in several national conventions held to discuss problems facing blacks. At the Southern States Convention of Colored Men in 1871 he proposed an amendment to a resolution of support for President Ulysses S. Grant, which called on the Republicans to nominate John Mercer Langston for Vice President in 1872.

In August 1870, Florida Republicans nominated Walls for the state's lone seat in the House of Representatives. Walls appeared to win a narrow election victory and presented his credentials to the Congress on March 4, 1871. He accepted assignments to the Committee on Militia, the Committee on Mileage, and the Committee on Expenditures in the Navy Department.

Congressman Walls put forth several proposals and spoke on a variety of subjects. Since he feared public education would receive little attention if it were administered by southern states, he supported a measure to establish a national educational fund financed with money from public land sales. He introduced bills for the relief of private pensioners and Seminole War veterans. He strongly favored expenditures for internal improvements in Florida and supported efforts to grant belligerent status to rebels fighting in Cuba for independence from Spain, which still permitted slavery to exist on the island.

After a disputed election and defeat for renomination to the House, Josiah Walls took an indefinite leave of absence from public service.

Upon his return to Alachua County, Josiah Walls owned and operated a successful tomato and lettuce farm, sawmill and orange groves. He also remained interested in political developments. He slipped into ill health and lost his fortune when a February 1895 freeze ruined his crops. Shortly thereafter he was placed in charge of the farm at Florida Normal College (now Florida A&M University). He died in Tallahassee on May 15, 1905.

As a great writer once penned, "God will not let us fall . . . For our work is good, We hope to plant a nation, Where none before hath stood." Congressman Josiah Walls planted a nation for other African Americans to follow.

Today, I honor him and ask all my colleagues to join me in remembering this politician and great leader from the great State of Florida.

RESPONSIBLE OFF-ROAD VEHICLE
ENFORCEMENT AND RESPONSE
("ROVER") ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am again introducing a bill to improve the ability of the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service to respond to a serious problem affecting federal lands in Colorado and other states.

Throughout the west, and especially in Colorado, increased growth and development has resulted in an increase in recreational use of our public lands. These recreational uses have, in some cases, stressed the capacity of the public land agencies to adequately control and manage such use. As a result, areas of our public lands are being damaged.

One of the uses that cause the greatest impacts are recreational off-road vehicles. The results can include: damage to wildlife habitat; increased run-off and sediment pollution in rivers and streams; damage to sensitive high-altitude tundra, desert soils, and wetlands; creation of ruts and other visual impacts on the landscape; loss of quiet and secluded areas of the public lands; and adverse effects on wildlife.

Recreational off-road vehicle use on our public lands should be allowed to continue, but it must be managed to minimize or avoid these problems, by appropriate restrictions and putting some sensitive areas off-limits to vehicle use.

Most vehicle users are responsible—they stay on designated roads and trails, they are respectful of the landscape and they endeavor to tread lightly. However, there are a number of such users who do not obey the rules. Given the nature of this use (large, powerful motorized vehicles that are able to penetrate deeper and deeper into previously secluded areas), even a relatively few who violate management requirements can create serious damage to public land resources.

Yet, in some cases, recreational off-road vehicle users ignore these closures and management requirements. Often times, when these activities occur, the federal public land agencies do not have the authority to charge fines commensurate with the damage that results. For example, under BLM's basic law, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, fines for violations of regulations—including regulations governing ORV uses—are limited to \$1,000. That figure has remained unchanged for a quarter of a century, and does not reflect the fact that in many cases the damage from violations will cost thousands more to repair.

The bill I am introducing today would provide for increased fines for such violations—to \$10,000 or the costs of restoring damaged lands, whichever would be greater. The bill is similar to one that I introduced in the 107th Congress.

The need for this legislation was demonstrated by incidents in several states, including some in Colorado.

For example, in the summer of 2000 two recreational off-road vehicle users ignored closure signs while four-wheel driving on Bureau of Land Management land high above Silverton, Colorado. As a result, they got stuck for five days on a 70 percent slope at 12,500 feet along the flanks of Houghton Mountain.

At first, they abandoned their vehicles. Then, they returned with other vehicles to pull their vehicles out of the mud and off the mountain. The result was significant damage to the high alpine tundra, a delicate ecosystem that may take thousands of years to recover. As noted in a Denver Post story about this incident, "alpine plant life has evolved to withstand freezing temperatures, nearly year-round frost, drought, high winds and intense solar radiation, but it's helpless against big tires."

Despite the extent of the damage, the violators were only fined \$600 apiece—hardly adequate to restore the area, or to deter others.

Another example was an event in the mountains near Boulder, Colorado, that became popularly known as the "mudfest."

Two Denver radio personalities announced that they were going to take their off-road four-wheel drive vehicles for a weekend's outing on an area of private property along an existing access road used by recreational off-road vehicle users. Their on-air announcement resulted in hundreds of people showing up and driving their vehicles in a sensitive wetland area, an area that is prime habitat of the endangered boreal toad. As a result, seven acres of wetland were destroyed and another 18 acres were seriously damaged. Estimates of the costs to repair the damage ranged from \$66,000 to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Most of the "mudfest" damage occurred on private property. However, to get to those lands the off-road vehicle users had to cross a portion of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest—but the Forest Service only assessed a \$50 fine to the two radio disc jockeys for not securing a special use permit to cross the lands.

Again, this fine is not commensurate to the seriousness of the violation or the damage that ensued, or stands as much of a deterrent for future similar behavior.

These are but two examples. Regrettably, there have been many more such examples not only in Colorado but also throughout the west. These examples underscore the nature of the problem that this bill would address. If we are to deter such activity and recover the damaged lands, we need to increase the authorities of the federal public land agencies.

My bill would do just that. Specifically, it would amend the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act and relevant laws governing the Forest Service to authorize these agencies to assess greater fines on recreational off-road vehicles for violations of management, use and protection requirements. The bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to assess up to \$10,000 in fines, or 12 months in jail, or both, for violations of road and trail closures and other management regulations by recreational off-road vehicles. The bill also would authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, in lieu of a specific dollar fine, to assess fines equal to the costs required to rehabilitate federal public lands from damage caused by recreational off-road vehicle violations.

In addition, the bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to apply any funds acquired from recreational off-road vehicle violations to the area that was damaged or affected by such violations, and to increase public awareness of the need for proper use of vehicles on federal lands.

This would give these agencies additional resources to recover damaged lands and areas that may be exposed to repeated violations.

The bill does not put any lands "off limits" to recreational off-road vehicle use. In fact, it does not affect any specific lands in any way. The bill also does not provide for increased fines for other activities that can damage federal lands. There may or may not be a need for legislation along those lines, but in the meantime I am seeking only to address this one problem.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I met with Chief Bosworth regarding several matters related to management of the National Forests. During our conversation, he said that he considered problems associated with off-road vehicles one of the greatest problems facing the Forest Service.

I agree with the Chief—in fact, I think improper use of recreational vehicles is a problem of growing seriousness throughout the west. My intention with this bill is to help address this problem so that all recreational users of our public lands can have a rewarding, safe and enjoyable experience. Everyone's experience is diminished when a few bad actors spoil the resources and the beauty of our lands. I think this bill can help provide the BLM and the Forest Service with better tools to respond by allowing appropriate recreational use of our public lands while also protecting the resources and values of these lands that belong to all the American people.

For the information of our colleagues, I am attaching a fact sheet about the bill.

RESPONSIBLE OFF-ROAD VEHICLE
ENFORCEMENT AND RESPONSE ("ROVER") ACT

BACKGROUND: In Colorado and throughout the west increased population growth has brought increased recreational use of federal lands. This has made it harder for land-managing agencies to adequately control and manage such use.

Recreational and other use of off-road vehicles (ORVs) can present serious problems. This use should be allowed to continue, but must be managed and controlled to minimize or avoid adverse effects. That involves closing-off some sensitive areas and other regulations.

Improper use of vehicles can result in serious damage to the national forests and the public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This can involve damage to wildlife habitat; increased run-off and sediment pollution in rivers and streams; damage to sensitive high-altitude tundra, desert soils, and wetlands; creation of ruts and other visual impacts to the landscape; loss of quiet areas due to the deeper penetration of off-road vehicles into previously secluded areas of the public lands; and impacts to wildlife from noise and effects on migration corridors.

Currently, the Forest Service and BLM do not always have clear authority to assess fines commensurate with the costs of enforcement and the damage that often results. For example, under the law governing BLM lands, federal officials can only impose up to \$1,000 in fines while the damage that results could cost thousands more to address. The

Forest Service's authority also needs clarifying and strengthening.

The bill would provide new authority, in order to increase public awareness, deter violations, and help cover the costs of enforcement and damages to affected lands.

What the bill would do:

Allow Increased Fines: The bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to assess fines of up to \$10,000 or the costs of restoration, whichever is greater, for violation of ORV regulations. The current provisions for imprisonment of 12 months in jail is retained.

Apply Fines to Enforcement and the Area Damaged: The bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to apply any funds acquired from recreational off-road vehicle violations to the costs of enforcing off-road violations, increasing public awareness of the problem, and to repair damages to lands affected by such violations.

What the bill would not do:

Increase Closures of Public Lands: The bill would not require that any particular lands be "off limits" to recreational off-road vehicle use. Decisions about which roads or trails will remain open to such use would continue to be made by the land-management agency.

Apply to Other Uses: The bill would not impose increased fines for violation of any regulations other than those applicable to use of vehicles.

Eliminate Fines for Other Violations: The bill would not affect the current ability of the federal public land agencies from assessing existing fines and penalties for other activities that violate management, use and protection requirements. Such fines would continue to apply to violations of other regulations.

HONORING MUNIR H. ABBASY, M.D.

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD today these remarks to honor the accomplishments and life of Munir H. Abbasy, M.D., who died in a single engine airplane crash that he was piloting on July 29, 2001.

Dr. Abbasy graduated from Liaquat Medical College in Pakistan in 1969, and completed his internship at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. Abbasy followed his internship with a position as a general surgeon at Northwestern University Medical Center in Chicago, and a neurosurgical residency at the University of Pittsburgh. After moving to Massachusetts in 1976, Dr. Abbasy joined the Neurosurgical and Neurological Group Inc. in Springfield. Additionally, he was on the medical staff of the area hospitals, including Baystate Medical Center, Mercy Medical Center, and Holyoke Hospital. Abbasy served as the Chief of Neurosurgery at Mercy Medical Center from 1988–1993, and extended his services to Baystate Medical Center from 1993–2001. Also, Dr. Abbasy was the assistant clinical professor in the neurosurgery department at Tufts University.

Dr. Abbasy was an established neurosurgeon who was commended on his extreme precision during surgery. Accordingly, Abbasy was the first neurosurgeon in Western Massachusetts to perform a "Jannetta Procedure," which is a microvascular decompression of a

cranial nerve for those who suffer from a tic douloureux and hemifacial spasm. Dr. Abbasy pioneered the practice of lumbar microdissectomies as an outpatient service at Baystate Medical Center in 1996, which reduced recovery time and created savings for the hospital.

As a resident of Longmeadow, MA, Dr. Abbasy was extremely involved in his community. He was a member of the Hampden District Medical Society, the American Medical Association, the New England Neurological Society, the Pediatric Section of AANS/CNS, and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. Furthermore, he was a director of the Longmeadow Montessori School.

According to his colleagues, friends, and family, Dr. Abbasy was a remarkable, bright, and extremely dedicated surgeon. He brought passion to his practice and always wanted to better the institutions and process of healthcare. He is survived by his wife, the former Ann O'Connor, a son, Jamil, and a daughter, Shareen Abbasy.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Abbasy was a valued member of the community and an amazing individual. He served the medical community for 25 years and his work will be remembered and appreciated. He will be missed by all who had the opportunity to know him.

TRIBUTE TO THE ELDER HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, on the blustery, frigid evening of November 30, 2002, the Elder High School football team made their championship dreams a reality. On a snow-covered field, the Elder Panthers overcame the weather, a four-hour bus ride, and a spirited Warren Harding team to return the Ohio state football championship to Cincinnati for the first time since Princeton High School won in 1987.

Thousands of Elder faithful braved the cold and snow flocking to Fawcett Stadium to urge the Panthers to victory. Those who couldn't make the cross-state trip sat glued to their TVs hanging on every play. From the opening kickoff to the three critical touchdown drives led by Rob Florian to the game-saving incompleteness forced by Kevin Harnist on Warren Harding's tying two-point conversion attempt, fans were thrilled by the championship effort and heart displayed by the young men from Elder.

After capturing the state championship, Elder garnered well-deserved team and individual honors. The Panthers were ranked ninth in the national high school football rankings released by USA Today. Individually, Coach Doug Ramsey was named Ohio Tri-Coach of the Year, and Senior LB Tony Carvitti was selected as Ohio Tri-Defense Player of the Year. Other All-Ohio honorees include: First Team selection Bill Poland; Second Team selection Tom Anevski; and Special Mention selection Bradley Glatthaar.

Throughout their triumphant season, Elder's young men labored and sacrificed to forge a championship team. Elder's hard-fought and inspiring victory has brought pride and honor

to Price Hill and our entire community. Football fans throughout the Cincinnati area congratulate the Panthers and share in their celebration.

Mr. Speaker, to appropriately honor these young men and coaches, I'd like to submit for the RECORD the roster of the 2002 Elder Panthers and a copy of their schedule and game results.

ELDER HIGH SCHOOL, 2002 OHIO HIGH SCHOOL STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS, FINAL RECORD: 14-1

REGULAR SEASON

Game 1, August 24, 2002: Elder 42—Dixie Heights 7.

Game 2, August 31, 2002: Louisville Trinity 44—Elder 20.

Game 3, September 6, 2002: Elder 42—Western Hills 8.

Game 4, September 13, 2002: Elder 45—Indianapolis Roncalli 7.

Game 5, September 21, 2002: Elder 45—Cleveland St. Ignatius 35.

Game 6, September 27, 2002: Elder 21—St. Xavier 17.

Game 7, October 5, 2002: Elder 47—Moeller 21.

Game 8, October 11, 2002: Elder 29—LaSalle 19.

Game 9, October 18, 2002: Elder 45—Indianapolis Cathedral 30.

Game 10, October 25, 2002: Elder 35—Oak Hills 8.

PLAYOFFS

Round 1, November 2, 2002: Elder 20—St. Xavier 14.

Round 2, November 9, 2002: Elder 31—Huber Heights Wayne 3.

Regional Championship, November 16, 2002: Elder 28—Colerain 21.

State Semi-Final, November 23, 2002: Elder 34—Findlay 31.

State Championship, November 30, 2002: Elder 21—Warren Harding 19.

2002 ELDER PANTHERS VARSITY FOOTBALL ROSTER

Head Coach: Doug Ramsey.

Assistant Coaches: Ken Lanzillotta; Ray Heidorn; Mike Kraemer; Craig James; Tim Schira; Matt Eisele; and Pat Good.

Seniors: #78 Tom Anevski; #44 Tony Arszman; #6 Bob Asman; #3 Greg Bachman; #35 Mike Barone; #86 John Bauer; #73 Marty Bauer; #7 Nick Brandhorst; #36 Kyle Brunzman; #76 Digger Bujnoch; #4 Dan Byrne; #97 Tony Carvitti; #33 Chris Chambers; and #98 Pat Christman.

#77 Conrad Cross; #15 Brian Crowley; #8 Nick Daut; #2 Craig Davis; #40 Mike Eagan; #1 Eric Hamberg; #26 Kevin Harnist; #32 Frank Hilvers; #21 Cody King; #81 Dan Kloefer; #64 Anthony Louderback; #38 Dan McDonald; #89 Bryan McKiddy; and #49 Jake Paff.

#37 Bill Poland; #95 Mike Riga; #79 Alex Robinson; #9 Chris Rothwell; #25 Dan Scherrer; #50 Nick Schwander; #5 Scott Spitznagel; #63 Brian Stall; #51 Ben Sprengard; #56 Todd Turner; #80 Kevin Vater; #93 Brandon Wittwer; and #75 John Wolff.

Juniors: #34 Eric Andriacco; #54 Steve Baum; #58 Kenny Berling; #62 Ryan Brinck; #20 Michael Brown; #68 Alec Burkhardt; #23 Mark Byrne; #42 Steve Haverkos; #70 Chris Heaton; #82 Nick Klaserner; #17 Danny Kraft; #48 Joe Lind; #47 Pat Lysaght; and #53 Corey McKenna.

#65 Nick Rellar; #14 Jake Richmond; #91 Tony Stegeman; #88 Ian Steidel; #22 Mike Stoecklin; #45 Tim Teague; #24 John Tiemeier; #19 Sean Carroll; #18 Charlie Coffaro; #71 Justin Crone; #29 Brett Currin; #12 Rob Florian; #84 Kurt Gindling; #11 Bradley Glatthaar; and #99 Alex Harbin.

#60 Mike Meese; #92 Tim Mercurio; #30 Drew Metz; #72 Mark Naltner; #28 Alex Niehaus; #43 Billy Phelan; #31 Seth Priestle; #90 Matt Umberg; #10 Jeff Vogel; #16 Eric Welch; #74 John Wellbrock; #87 Mike Windt; #55 Eric Wood; and #94 Mike Zielasko.

Sophomores: Craig Carey; D.J. Hueneman; Eric Kenkel; Rick Stautberg; and Nick Williams.

Managers: Kyle Miller and T.J. Weil.

INTEREST-FREE FUNDS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND MODERNIZATION PROJECTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would provide \$25.2 billion in interest-free funds over the next two years for public school construction and modernization projects.

Currently, our public school system has extraordinary unmet needs for funds to construct and modernize schools. Consider the following facts:

The average age of a public school in the United States is 42 years.

One-third of all public schools in the United States are in need of extensive repair or replacement.

Three and a half million students attend schools that need major repair or replacement.

According to a recent report from the National Education Association, it will cost \$332 billion to bring the existing public schools into overall good condition. Billions more will be required to construct new schools to meet expanding student enrollments.

President Bush's education program places strong emphasis on raising standards in America's classrooms, but does not provide promised Federal help for the cost of additional testing and services required to reach that goal. His program also ignores the fact that school facilities are an important part of raising student performance. Inferior facilities make teaching more difficult. They also send a clear message to the student that this nation does not value their education. The President's program seems to be designed to fail.

My legislation will provide funds for school modernization projects through a federal tax credit. The tax credit will, in effect, pay the interest on \$25.2 billion of school modernization bonds. All decisions relating to how those funds would be used would continue to be made at the local level.

My legislation is based on a successful model, the Qualified Academy Bond (QZAB) program enacted in 1997. A California local school official described that program as a "local school district's dream" after having successfully participated in a bond offering subsidized under that program. U.S. Education Secretary Rodney Page endorsed a similar proposal in 1999 when he was Superintendent of the Houston schools. In a statement submitted to the the Committee on Ways and Means, he said that school modernization bonds "represent the approach to Federal aid that will have a truly consequential impact on meeting the infrastructure needs of Houston and other large urban high poverty districts."

Mr. Speaker, I regret that I am introducing this bill today without the broad bipartisan sup-

port that it has received in the past. The lack of bipartisan support is due to the fact that the bill is fundamentally inconsistent with the President's dividend exemption proposal. I am hopeful that the Congress will reject or substantially modify the President's dividend proposal and, therefore, make it possible to pursue this bill with its former bipartisan support.

Attached is a brief description of the bill and a table showing how the funds will be allocated among the States.

SUMMARY

The bill would subsidize \$25.2 billion in zero-interest school modernization bonds. The federal government would provide tax credits for the interest normally paid on a bond. Funds that would have gone to pay bond interest would be freed for other education needs. For each \$1000 of school bonds, the net benefit of the program to State or local school districts would be approximately \$500.

Funding: The bill divides the interest-free funds for public school construction and modernization as follows:

\$22 billion over two years for zero-interest school modernization bonds (\$11 billion in both 2004 and 2005). The bill would allocate 60 percent of the \$22 billion in bonds to states based on school-age population. The State education agency has the authority to allocate the State's share among the schools districts in the State with no restrictions as to what schools can qualify. The remaining 40 percent of these bonds would be directly allocated to the 125 school districts with the largest number of low-income students based on ESEA Title I funding (poverty-based distribution).

\$400 million in school modernization bonds for Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) schools.

\$2.8 billion for expansion of the existing Qualified Zone Academy Bond program (QZAB). This amount is allocated among the States based upon the number or poor students. The State education agency has the authority to allocate the State's share among the school districts in the State; except that amount may be allocated only to schools with at least 35% poor students—those schools located in Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities or which have at least 35 percent of their students eligible for free or reduced price school lunch.

Federal Role: The federal government would provide a tax credit to the bond purchaser equal to the interest that would otherwise be paid on a school construction bond. No new federal bureaucracy would be created.

Cost: The five-year cost to the Federal government is approximately \$1.7 billion and the ten-year cost is approximately \$6.8 billion.

The following table shows the estimated allocations under the bill.

Estimated state bond allocations

Alabama	\$354,922
Alaska	53,398
Arizona	337,448
Arkansas	183,516
California	3,109,598
Colorado	296,358
Connecticut	292,085
Delaware	49,070
District of Columbia	88,904
Florida	1,188,467
Georgia	654,051
Hawaii	77,438
Idaho	93,409
Illinois	1,221,868
Indiana	459,436
Iowa	196,453
Kansas	196,866
Kentucky	295,249
Louisiana	473,051

Estimated state bond allocations—Continued

Maine	84,355
Maryland	395,270
Massachusetts	467,254
Michigan	1,006,867
Minnesota	378,952
Mississippi	237,537
Missouri	452,673
Montana	65,077
Nebraska	131,275
Nevada	92,951
New Hampshire	80,802
New Jersey	660,175
New Mexico	157,627
New York	2,476,435
North Carolina	488,119
North Dakota	46,596
Ohio	1,019,626
Oklahoma	277,839
Oregon	235,626
Pennsylvania	1,044,126
Puerto Rico	378,751
Rhode Island	90,648
South Carolina	284,932
South Dakota	56,180
Tennessee	421,577
Texas	1,998,390
Utah	175,947
Vermont	42,022
Virginia	422,902
Washington	402,308
West Virginia	123,951
Wisconsin	491,648
Wyoming	38,712
Outlying Areas	51,263
BIA Schools	400,000
Total	25,200,000

HELENA MARQUES—SOUTHCOAST WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the most difficult issues that we have been dealing with in these past years has been that of immigration. Sadly, it has become politically popular to blame immigrants for a wide variety of problems for which they are not, in fact responsible, and people have increasingly overlooked the important cultural and economic contributions immigration continues to play in our Nation of immigrants.

In my efforts to provide fair treatment for immigrants, both as a matter of equity and as a matter of correctly assessing our national interest in a sensible immigration policy, I have benefited enormously from the counsel, advocacy and commitment of Helena Marques. She has been an extraordinary asset to all of us who are charged with helping to make national policy on this matter, and she has been a beacon of strength for those in the immigrant community and their families who have been affected by our policies. I concur wholeheartedly with the decision of the New Bedford Standard Times to designate her the south coast woman of the Year, and I ask that the article describing her work from the Standard times be printed here, because I believe our colleagues will benefit from reading about her important work on the immigration issue.

After Sept. 11, 2001, Helena Marques had bad news for the mothers of area residents deported from the area to Portugal.

As she delivered the news during a meeting in a South End Holy Ghost club, she

couldn't maintain her composure, an wept with the women. She wept because she felt helpless. She wept for the victims of the terrorist attack.

The following day, she was back at her office at the Immigrants' Assistance Center, advocating for immigrants' rights with the same energy she always carried, even if the woes were now almost insurmountable.

Those who know Ms. Marques say she is the kind of woman: one who easily gets involved in the suffering of those she helps, but also one who can be a non-nonsense advocate and diplomat, businesswoman and lobbyist.

Ms. Marques, 42, picked up an agency in tatters when she took over the helm in 1996, led it through its greatest growth, and is now fighting on several fronts to maintain the level of service she helped create.

For all she has done since 1996, Ms. Marques is *The Standard-Times'* 2002 SouthCoast Woman of the Year.

Ms. Marques, a mother of one from Acushnet, with a bachelor's degree in business administration, started her job with IAC as a secretary more than 20 years ago, when the agency had only four employees and a small budget.

She rose through the ranks and in 1996 became the executive director of the now much bigger 31-year-old agency.

Coincidence or not, the year 1996 would forever be engraved in the history of IAC and of immigrant rights in America.

The agency was placed on probation by the United Way due to administrative shortcomings and it had also suffered severe cuts in funding from the state and federal governments.

Nationally, immigrants were losing welfare benefits and a new, stiffer deportation law was quietly coming into effect, which would soon devastate many area families.

"When I got promoted to this position it was at a time things were the worst," Ms. Marques said. "The worst year anybody can take over an agency."

Nevertheless, Ms. Marques, one of seven Madeiran immigrant children and the product of the New Bedford public schools, persisted.

She rolled up her sleeves and got to work.

In four years, Ms. Marques tripled IAC's size, turning it from a struggling agency into a major immigrant services and advocacy group. New programs sprung up during the time and the agency opened two branch offices, including one in Taunton.

Some of the programs Ms. Marques helped create include the native language citizenship classes, educational in-jail programs for individuals facing deportation and citizenship programs in schools. Additionally, she helped form the Women Immigrants Support Hub for family members of deportees.

The agency also expanded beyond the Portuguese community and started serving other immigrant groups in the city.

One major effort included raising national and international attention to the effects of the 1996 deportation laws, which locally have resulted in the deportation of more than 400 Portuguese nationals and more than 100 Cape Verdean nationals.

The plight of those immigrants struck a chord because many were being deported for seemingly minor crimes after living most of their lives in the United States.

Ms. Marques took the cause wholeheartedly.

As a deportation fighter, sometimes she stood in the rain with WISH members, holding signs in front of District Attorney Paul F. Walsh Jr.'s office to stop a local deportation program. She also shared hugs at community events and personally talked with anyone who wished to speak with her.

Other times she traveled to Washington to bring the local message to politicians or ap-

peared on television and radio shows to spread the word.

She also became a well-known person in the community, befriending Sofia Milos, the star of the yet-unreleased romantic comedy "Passionada."

What's surprising, or not, is that she has played all the roles well, say those who know her.

"What I'm struck by in Helena is how she is so committed but careful," said congressman Barney Frank, D-Mass., who has consulted Ms. Marques on several pieces of legislation. "It's easy to be a diplomat if you don't care. It's very difficult to find someone that is both a zealot and a diplomat. She doesn't allow her passion to impair her judgment."

Rep. Frank said he met Ms. Marques around the time she took over IAC. He said his office has worked with her since that time.

I think she does a great job representing the immigrant community," Rep. Frank said.

Ms. Marques says that what she does comes naturally.

"A lot of times, the immigrant populations are in fear of speaking about issues that are important to them," she said. "Being an immigrant myself, seeing what my parents have gone through, I can relate.

"Not too many people have jobs that they feel they're helping out the community. At the end of the day I know that I've made a difference. To me it's a very humble job," she said.

Ms. Marques works behind her desk at the Crapo Street IAC offices; dinners with politicians and her networking efforts have helped turn IAC into a \$450,000 agency, but it's her advocacy work that has made her visible in the community.

"She's deeply committed to the work that she does, and she's deeply rooted in the community," said Nancy Lee Wood, a sociologist who helped form the WISH group with Ms. Marques. "She has a deep sense of compassion and caring about what happened to her people."

Ms. Wood has accompanied Ms. Marques on vigils, meetings with public safety officials and politicians and has helped organize WISH meetings and other programs.

Ms. Marques' enthusiasm has impressed her.

"I think she has worked very hard to build up the IAC. That takes a lot of energy, a lot of faith in the future," she said. "It just takes a lot of courage to just forge ahead and implement a lot of programs."

Ms. Marques became the executive director of IAC at a time when the agency was under scrutiny and executive directors changed with the tide.

Today, the members of the board of directors of the organization think they made the right choice when they decided to name Ms. Marques executive director.

"She totally believes in what the center stands for. We have complete trust in her," said Edward Macedo, president of the board. "She deals with the board very well, she knows where the board is coming from. We work very closely together."

Mr. Macedo has been president of the board at IAC for three years, but has been a member at least since Ms. Marques took the job. He said that during that time he has seen her go beyond her obligations.

"She goes way beyond," he said. "She gives of herself beyond her time also."

Ms. Marques, who is currently working hard to secure \$150,000 in lost state funds, said she is as committed as ever in her job, despite the difficulties.

"I'm looking anywhere and everywhere for money," she said. "Now, more than ever, I

feel I need to do what I'm doing. When the immigrant population is being targeted like it is right now, people like me need to be vocal."

Ms. Marques' dedication started when she first stepped into IAC as a secretary.

"Because (IAC) was so small I did everything," she said. "I was like a sponge. I wanted to learn as much as I could about the agency."

Ms. Marques said at times, when the job seems to be too much to handle, the gratification from helping others has kept her going.

"I do feel with so much tragedy coming in, I see it on a daily basis, that I feel lucky," she said. "I don't take anything for granted because of what I see here."

TRIBUTE TO INEZ WILLIAMS BROWN

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a native South Carolinian whose love of family and faith in God have blessed her with a rich and full life. On February 20, 2003, Mrs. Inez Williams Brown will celebrate her 90th birthday, and in marking this important occasion, I believe it is important to highlight a few of the contributions she has made.

Mrs. Brown, the granddaughter of slaves, was born on the Blake Plantation in Colleton County. Her father, Burton, was the youngest of five children born to Sally Prince. At an early age, he married Mamie Daily, and they had five children. Inez, the youngest, was born on February 20, 1913. Before she reached her first birthday, Inez's mother died in childbirth. Her father attended South Carolina Normal Institute. He was an ordained Baptist minister and also taught school.

Inez met and married Willie Williams, also a minister. They began their lives together in Hendersonville, South Carolina, and later spent four years in Georgia. They settled in Charleston, South Carolina in 1940. They had eleven children. After the death of Reverend Williams, Mrs. Williams raised 10 children by herself with the help of her eldest son, Alfred Williams and a brother-in-law, Elijah Williams. Her dedication to her family is reflective of the strong commitment exhibited by many African-American mothers.

After all but two of her children were adults, Inez Williams married Mr. Ed Gadsden, who died two years later. And in 1981, she married Robert Brown, who passed away in 2000.

Mrs. Brown's legacy is in the family she raised nearly on her own. Her eldest son, Alfred, is the Pastor of Canaan Baptist Church with a membership of over 800 parishioners. Mozell Myers is a retired schoolteacher, and a leader among ministers' wives in the A.M.E. Church. Luethel McNeil is an insurance professional and an ordained minister in New Jersey. Mildred Williams is a schoolteacher and writer in Oakland, California. Lelia Mae Daniels is in law enforcement in El Paso, Texas. Isaac "Ike" Williams, is a former S.C. Field Director of the N.A.A.C.P. and presently serves on my District Staff. Ike's twin, Rebecca Small, is a speech therapist in Newark, New Jersey. Bessie Simmons is an Executive Assistant and Director of Quality Assurance for

Quovadx, Inc., an information technology provider for the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). She is also an internationally renowned poet. Gloria Edwards is a retired secretary for pediatric clinics at MUSC. Susie Manning is Director of Adult Treatment Services for Richland County Behavioral Health Center of the Midlands, LRADAC. The youngest, Leon Williams, is a retired Warehouse Manager for the Columbia, South Carolina Housing Authority.

Mrs. Brown has been active with the NAACP, the Senior Citizens program in Union Heights, and an avid Voter Education and Participation activist. This granddaughter of slaves has demonstrated with great fervor, her commitment to her family, her community and her God.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in saluting this great woman on her 90th birthday. Her unbounded love and extraordinary maternal sacrifice and dedication are legendary. This granddaughter of slaves has demonstrated with great fervor, her commitment to her family, her community and her God.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF COLONEL EDWARDS S. JONES, USAF AFTER 29 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the outstanding career of Colonel Edward S. Jones who is currently the Comptroller for the Defense Commissary Agency at Fort Lee, Virginia. Colonel Jones will retire after 29 years of distinguished service in the U.S. Air Force and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his selfless service to both the Air Force and to the United States of America.

Commissioned in 1974 as a Distinguished Graduate of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, Colonel Jones has served in comptroller positions at all levels of the Air Force: wing, major command, headquarters, unified command, and finally, defense agency.

Colonel Jones' list of prior assignments includes: Director of Financial Management, Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.; Deputy Director of the Operations Center and Deputy Director of Resource Management, Headquarters, Defense Commissary Agency, Fort Lee; and Chief, Integration and Accounting Branch, Comptroller Division, Directorate of Acquisition and Resources, U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., and Executive Secretary to the Air Force Commissary Service Board of Directors, the Pentagon, Washington, DC.

A graduate of the Valdosta State University, Ga. holding a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, Colonel Jones also holds a Masters of Business Administration from Golden Gate University, San Francisco. His military education includes the Air War College, Armed Forces Staff College, Professional Military Comptrollers School, Air Command and Staff College, and Squadron Officer's School.

Colonel Jones' awards and decorations include: the Defense Meritorious Service Medal

with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with two oak leaf clusters, American Defense Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Ribbons, and the Air Force Longevity Service Award with five oak leaf clusters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and Colonel Jones' many friends and family in saluting this distinguished officer's lifetime of service. Colonel Jones is the very embodiment of patriotism and it is fitting that the House of Representatives honors him on this day.

COMMENDING ISRAEL ON THEIR ELECTIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on February 11, 2003, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote on H. Res. 61. However, I would have voted yes.

As you know, I have always been a strong supporter of Israel. As the only democracy in the Middle East, Israel is a beacon of liberty and a model for her neighbors. As a country under siege and in an almost constant state of war against terrorists, Israel also serves as an inspiration for the United States as we continue our war against terrorists.

HONORING THE FLINDERS UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA WASHINGTON DC INTERNSHIP AND INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and enthusiasm that I rise today to pay tribute to Flinders University of South Australia Washington, DC Internship Program. The Flinders University program is to be commended for providing five Australian college students with the opportunity to experience the American political process first hand, while at the same time, furthering the already strong relationship between the United States and Australia.

For the past six weeks, I have had the privilege to participate in the Flinders University program. The intern assigned to my office, Ms. Tamera Gale, has been an incredible asset to my staff and me. I have learned from her, and I certainly hope that she has learned from me.

Tamera is a third year college student at Flinders University in her hometown of Adelaide, Australia. She is majoring in American Studies. When speaking with her recently, Tamera expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to intern in my office. But as I told her then, I truly appreciate the opportunity to have her working with my staff and me.

During her time in my office, Tamera has assisted in the drafting of a resolution hon-

oring the long-standing U.S.-Australia relationship, as well as educating herself and others on the rich history of African Americans in the U.S. Armed Forces. The fruit of Tamera's labor has been passed on to my colleagues in the House of Representatives through my African American History Month Dear Colleague letters honoring the lives of a different African American military hero each day.

Mr. Speaker, we live in a good country filled with opportunity and good people. However, we venture outside of our borders all too little. The Flinders University of South Australia Washington, DC Internship Program provides Australian students with the opportunity to travel to the United States and view our democracy and life in our country. Equally, the program provides Members and staff with an opportunity to learn about the political process and life in Australia, a country and continent that too few of us visit.

It has been an honor to have Tamera intern in my office, and I wish her and her fellow interns good luck and fortune in all of their future endeavors. I look forward to participating in the Flinders program next year and urge my colleagues to do the same.

FEBRUARY IS AMERICAN HEART MONTH

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to help recognize February as American Heart Month.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition I am well aware of the seriousness that cardiovascular disease plays in the lives of approximately 62 million Americans today. The statistics are staggering:

One million Americans die from some form of cardiovascular disease each year—one American every 33 seconds.

Heart disease is the number one killer in the United States, topping cancer (549,000 deaths), Alzheimer's Disease (44,536) and HIV/AIDS (14,802).

Women in particular are greatly affected, with one in five having some form of cardiovascular disease.

Heart disease and stroke are expected to cost the U.S. over \$350 billion in 2003.

We should not be without hope, however, since cardiovascular diseases can be treated aggressively with a variety of procedures. Various treatment options include medicines for high blood pressure—a leading risk factor of heart disease and stroke, medicines that lower cholesterol, clot-buster medicines that can save the lives of heart attack patients and medicines that can prevent repeat heart attacks.

These means of combating heart disease are not cheap. This is why I have co-sponsored legislation in the past that will add more benefits to Medicare recipients, covering procedures such as cholesterol screening and medical nutrition therapy. I am looking forward to re-introducing the Medicare Wellness Act in the 108th Congress.

Even with the improved access to medical procedures and medicines, the American people still need to be educated on the issue of

cardiovascular disease and its prevention. The U.S. Surgeon General considers over 61 percent of the American public overweight. We must continue to stress the need for including a healthy diet and regular exercise into our daily living. Education will lead to increased prevention.

Healthcare will be an important issue facing Congress this year. We must continue to provide funding for preventative education programs in addition to funding for research to stop the number one killer of Americans this year—cardiovascular disease.

I will continue to work as Co-Chair of the Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition in order to increase the awareness of strokes and heart disease among the Members of Congress and the Administration.

IMPROVING CALCULATION OF FEDERAL SUBSIDY RATE

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 141, and to commend Chairman MANZULLO and Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ for their leadership in bringing this much needed legislation to the floor.

Passage of S. 141 will be the first step in correcting the SBA lending problems plaguing our nation's small businesses. This measure encourages the Administration to use a 7(a) subsidy rate model that would more accurately reflect the true cost of the small business loan programs to the taxpayer. Specifically, it permits the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Small Business Administration (SBA) to use a recently completed econometric model to calculate the credit subsidy rate for the 7(a) small business loan guarantee program.

Once enacted into law, this measure will allow SBA's flagship loan program to meet the borrowing demands of our nation's small businesses. Without this legislation, the program would limit 7(a) loans to less than \$5 billion for FY 2003. Currently, the 7(a) program is operating at a very reduced capacity, with a loan size cap of \$500,000, to avoid exceeding the program limitations. According to a recent GAO study, the current model has also resulted in overcharges or taxes of \$1.5 billion over the last 10 years. By limiting the 7(a) guaranteed small business loan program, we are unnecessarily restricting capital for America's small businesses to expand and create jobs.

In 2002, this crucial program backed 51,666 loans worth over \$12 billion to small firms nationwide. Last year, 21 different financial institutions in Rhode Island approved 932 7(a) loans for a total of over \$75 million to Rhode Island's small business community. In fact, 7(a) loans make up nearly one-third of all long-term loans made to U.S. small businesses. This program is important to every small business in America and deserves our continued support.

Small businesses are the backbone of Rhode Island's economy and account for more than 98 percent of the jobs in the state. As a proud member of the Committee on Small

Business, I have been extremely concerned about the ability of small businesses to start and grow in the current economic climate. Now more than ever, Congress must support the growth of America's small businesses and help stimulate the real engine of this nation's economy. For these reasons, I rise in strong support of passage of S. 141 and urge my colleagues to support it as well.

TRIBUTE TO LETTY L. CARPENTER

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the exemplary career of Letty L. Carpenter of Jefferson, Maryland, on the occasion of her retirement from the Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS) after 30 years of Federal service. At a time when the need for dedicated public service to our nation is more critical than ever, it gives me great pleasure to honor the commitment Letty has demonstrated to such service, particularly for the low-income and vulnerable populations served by the Medicaid program. Her commitment is even more impressive when you realize that Letty regularly has arisen at 4:00 am to make the long commute from her home in lovely, rural western Maryland to her position with CMS in Washington, DC.

Letty was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. She received a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Illinois in Urbana, Illinois, and a Masters of Arts in Geography, as well as a Masters of Public Health from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Letty entered Federal service as a volunteer and later a recruiter for the Peace Corps, serving from July 1965 to May 1968. As a volunteer in Senegal, she introduced aural-oral techniques of language instruction to local schools to replace traditional rote teaching methods, wrote instructional materials, and also participated in laying the groundwork for a maternal and child health outreach program through the local hospital. As a recruiter in the United States, she conducted advertising and advance work for the Peace Corps recruitment drives at 40 midwestern universities and colleges. From 1970 to 1974, she worked for the University of Michigan, first as a Community Coordinator then later as a Research Assistant.

Letty continued her Federal career in Washington, DC, in 1974 when she was selected for the Management Intern Program with the Department of Health and Human Services (then HEW). Through this program, she had several rotational assignments to different agencies throughout the Department. From 1977 to 1979, she was a program analyst in the Medical Services Administration of the Social and Rehabilitation Services agency in HEW.

Letty started in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (formerly the Health Care Financing Administration) in the Medicaid Bureau in January 1979 and has worked for CMS until the present time. She has worked in the Office of Legislation for the last 23 years, where she has played a critical role in the passage of legislation through her assistance to senior managers in HHS, OMB and

the White House, as well as Members and staff of Congress and their support agencies.

During her tenure in CMS, Letty has served nine agency Administrators and ten Department Secretaries all of whom have recognized her contributions with numerous awards, including Administrator's Achievement Awards and the Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service.

Letty is recognized nationally, within and outside the government, as a renowned expert in the intricacies of Medicaid law, regulations and policies, particularly those related to the extremely complex area of Medicaid eligibility requirements. She possesses exceptional abilities to skillfully analyze complex situations, focus attention on the key issues, develop practical options to address them, and explain it all in clear, concise and understandable language.

Letty has also skillfully trained numerous current and former colleagues in the complexities of Medicaid policy and part of her legacy in CMS will continue through the knowledge she has imparted to the current employees of the Office of Legislation and other parts of the Agency. Many people call her from around the country, from Federal, State, and local government agencies, as well as the private sector, for assistance because of her expertise in the Medicaid program.

All of Letty's colleagues in CMS and HHS will sorely miss her knowledge, insight, and can-do attitude, as well as her encouragement and lively sense of humor. Letty always has taken her responsibilities to the low-income and other vulnerable beneficiaries of the Medicaid program very seriously, but not herself. I join her colleagues and friends in congratulating her on her impressive achievements and wishing her well as she retires from Federal service. We expect that she will continue to be a valued participant in many important issues, as well as an even more active member of the Jefferson, Maryland, community, where she and her husband, Jim, have long resided.

COMMEMORATING THE ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SALT RIVER PROJECT

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, in the sun-soaked regions of Arizona, the most precious natural resource is not gold, nor is it silver. It is a priceless commodity, whose worth is not determined by its luster or quality, but by its volume and quantity. Even the world's most talented scientists are unable to replicate it, and it cannot be manufactured by machine.

It is water that sustains us and shapes our future to come. Without this gift of life, in the form of summer monsoon rain and high-mountain snowmelt, our lands would be uninhabitable and our lives impossible.

The Salt River Valley, which runs from eastern through central Arizona, is a main artery that carries within it the life-blood of the state. More than 2000 years ago, its lush banks were the home of the first people of Arizona, the Hohokam, who created an intricate network of irrigation canals that gave life to their communities.

Today, after countless natural cycles of alternating seasonal drought and flood, life, death and renewal, the early ingenuity of the Hohokam people lives on through the vision of the founders and 4,300 employees of the Salt River Project, the largest provider of surface water in Arizona and the nation's third-largest public power utility.

The Salt River Project began in 1903 when an association of landowners in the Phoenix area, frustrated by their inability to manage the water supply for their crops and cattle, incorporated their properties as collateral toward a federal loan under the National Reclamation Act. This community corporation led to the construction of the Theodore Roosevelt Dam, the largest structure of its day, and the foundation for a prosperous local economy and municipal infrastructure that was able to control the source and supply of its most valuable natural commodity.

In the century following this initial project, the focus and scope of the Salt River Project has grown to include a number of major power plants and generating facilities in Arizona and the Southwest that use thermal, hydroelectric and nuclear reaction for power production. Every day, Salt River Project's modern network of dams and power generating plants deliver water to more than one million residents and serve electricity to more than 780,000 customers at some of the lowest prices among major utilities in the Southwest, according to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. This attention to customer needs has earned Salt River Project accolades inside and outside of the energy and water industry.

As a result of the region's continuing capacity for development and efficient water management, census figures have shown Arizona's growth rate to be one of the fastest in the nation, with a 40 percent increase in population during the 1990's. The prosperity and quality of life that is presently enjoyed by every citizen of the great state of Arizona, is a testament to the vision of the founders of the Salt River Project and a legacy that has endured for the past one hundred years through the actions of its current and past employees.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Salt River Project on the hundredth anniversary of its founding and to honor those individuals who have participated in bringing the precious gift of water to our desert environment.

IN RECOGNITION OF SOME
EVERYDAY HEROES

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize four outstanding individuals who helped me resolve a matter involving one of the youngest constituents of the Fourth District of Virginia.

Jacquelyn Dominguez is the one year old daughter of a servicemember stationed at Ft. Lee. Jacquelyn was born with Cystic Hygroma on the right side of her neck. At the time of her birth, the cyst was diagnosed as "free floating." Last September 2002, the Army flew the family to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, DC, for Jacquelyn to be seen by a

specialist. The specialist did several MRIs and determined that the cyst was growing inward on Jacquelyn's neck, cutting off her breathing. The best option for treatment on this tender child would be an experimental drug, Picibanil Sclerotherapy, also known as OK 432.

It is not standard procedure for medical health providers to provide for experimental procedures. It is certainly not standard for them to read, and reread, and reread the rules again until they can find an exception. These four individuals, who neither I nor my staff had ever met before the plight of this little girl, took on my cause and made a difference.

They helped me save this little girl's life. For that I, and Jacquelyn's active duty family will always be grateful. It is at this time that I would like to recognize Ms. Mary Dix, Vice President of the Uniformed Services University of Health Science (USUHS), Colonel Charles C. Partridge, the Legislative Counsel for the National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS), Dr. Stephen K. Scroggs, Ph.D., the Vice President of Government Affairs at Sierra Military Health Services, and the most valuable player of this team, Ms. Christine Van Cleave, of TRICARE Management Activity—Aurora, Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and Jacquelyn Dominguez' family in saluting these four outstanding Americans. Their willingness to help young Jacquelyn is the very embodiment of our country's spirit, and it is fitting that the House of Representatives honors them on this day.

TRIBUTE TO MS. OLA RICHBOURG

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor one of Florida's most cherished and dedicated citizens, whom over the course of her life has given an immeasurable amount of time and effort to the community that she has worked so hard to build. On February 15, 2003, the city of Laurel Hill will honor Ms. Ola Richbourg as its Citizen of the Year for 2003, recognizing her long and distinguished period of service to the Laurel Hill community.

Born on March 27, 1921 in the same wood frame home where she lives today, Ola is described by her peers as a lady that will go out of her way to help others. The daughter of John Franklin and Katie Haynes Richbourg, she learned the value of working for her community at an early age from her father who served three terms as a state representative, beginning in 1907. In 1977, she was appointed to the position of County Clerk of Laurel Hill and was subsequently elected, in 1979, to the City Council, where she remained for thirteen years.

Even more remarkable is her history of service to her country. Upon graduating from Laurel Hill High School in 1939 and attending a government-run school in Ocala where she learned shorthand and typing, Ola joined the United States Marine Corps on November 5, 1943, during the height of World War II. It was at a movie that Ola saw a commercial asking women to join the military in order to free up men to fight overseas. To Ola, it was an easy decision. She was simply doing whatever she

could to help her country in a time of crisis, but her decision would have a profound impact on the future of our nation. It was her, and many other women's, choice to fight for her country, that would open up all kinds of new doors for women. Following World War II, Ola returned to Laurel Hill, believing she was done with military service. However, shortly thereafter, the Korean War broke out and she reenlisted without hesitation. Dedicating herself to the Marine Corps for nearly two decades, Ola retired as a Tech Sergeant in 1966.

Her strength and determination led her to fight for her country in one of the most important world conflicts of the 20th century and to personally win a battle against cancer of the larynx. Her smile is contagious and her heart as big as they come. She remembers how a nickel could once buy a big RC Cola and lots of candy and that fateful day when she learned where Pearl Harbor was, changing her life forever. It is his kindness and humility that have allowed her to do so much for so many during her life and I know she will continue to do so in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sincere and heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Ola Richbourg as she receives this special recognition as Laurel Hill's Citizen of the Year. Her contributions to the citizens of Laurel Hill and the United States of America are significant and impressive and I consider her a patriot of the highest order. On this such occasion, we honor a great soldier, civil servant, and neighbor; one of America's greatest citizens.

EAGLES CELEBRATE 100TH
ANNIVERSARY IN SCRANTON

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the 100th anniversary of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Scranton, Pennsylvania. The Eagles Aerie No. 314 will celebrate this anniversary with a dinner-dance on February 22, 2003.

The Scranton Aerie began on Wyoming Avenue at a four-story building with two large concrete eagles at the top. The fourth floor was a magnificent dance hall; the third floor was used as a meeting hall by the Eagles as well as many local unions; and the second floor housed a social room with a wide, white marble staircase as its entrance. The first floor housed various businesses over the years. Throughout the early years, the Aerie had drill teams that performed in parades.

The 300 members of the Scranton Aerie are part of a national organization founded in 1898 that is now one million strong, with members in every state and parts of Canada as well. The Scranton Aerie moved to its present building in 1977 and takes pride in being the only fraternal organization with its own building in Scranton.

The Scranton Eagles are active with numerous charity projects, having donated several thousand dollars over the years, and with hosting state tournaments and conferences that bring hundreds of people to Scranton.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the

100th anniversary of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Scranton as well as their dedication to serving the community, and I wish them all the best.

POSTAL CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM FUNDING REFORM ACT OF 2003

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I join Chairman TOM DAVIS, Representative JOHN MCHUGH and Subcommittee Ranking member, Representative DANNY K. DAVIS, in introducing the "Postal Civil Service Retirement System Funding Reform Act of 2003."

The legislation we introduced today corrects the calculation of the Postal Service's contributions to its pension fund and provides immediate and needed financial relief to the Postal Service. It allows the Postal Service to reduce its debt and hold off on rate increases until at least 2006. It does this by crediting the Postal Service for the real value of contributions it made in the past and changing how contributions will be computed in the future.

This legislation is being introduced quickly because, without it, the Postal Service faces an increasing financial crisis. The Postal Service has suggested that, in the absence of such a change, a rate increase will be necessary within a year. While there is a need for action to be taken quickly, the issue requires more measured consideration than we are able to give it in this short time. That is why the bill includes a mechanism for Congress to revisit this issue. The bill requires the Postal Service to report on the ways in which the savings can best be used so that Congress can make an informed decision on such use. Given the many serious concerns about the Postal Service's future obligations, our legislation is only the first step in addressing much larger problems.

The legislation that we introduced today, however, is not perfect and we are still working on areas of disagreement. For instance, the bill requires the Postal Service to pay the pension costs associated with military service both before and after the change from the old Post Office Department to the new Postal Service. I do not believe this is a good idea; I am not convinced that the Postal Service, which is supposed to run like a private business, should be paying the costs of military service for employees in the Civil Service Retirement System. I am confident we will continue to be able to work together to resolve this important issue.

In closing, I want to commend Chairman DAVIS, Rep. MCHUGH, and Rep. DANNY DAVIS for their efforts in addressing this problem and for working in a bipartisan manner. The Postal Service faces many challenges and I look forward to working together on strengthening our nation's Postal Service.

FUEL CELL RESEARCH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about promising technology that could help protect our environment and safeguard our national security. Given time and support, research into hydrogen-powered fuel cells could yield a reliable, clean source of power and curtail our dependence on foreign oil.

By chemically combining oxygen and hydrogen, fuel cells generate electricity up to three times more efficiently than any internal combustion engine. Hydrogen has the highest energy content of any known fuel, and hydrogen-powered fuel cells run almost silently while emitting no pollutants. An automobile powered by fuel cells would produce only water as waste. Furthermore, hydrogen could be used for far more than transportation. Hydrogen fuel cells could be used to power homes and offices, and even to replace batteries for computers, cell phones, and other appliances.

Fuel cells could not only serve as a clean and efficient energy source, but also as a way to limit our reliance on foreign oil. If we don't concentrate on viable alternatives to now, the United States is expected to import 68 percent of the oil it consumes by 2025. Should hydrogen-powered fuel cells fulfill their promise, we could drastically reduce that figure and ensure our independence in a way that keeps our environment protected.

Despite the great potential of this technology, there are significant obstacles to overcome. Usable hydrogen remains expensive to produce and difficult to store effectively. At present fuel cells can cost up to ten times more than conventional engines. There is important work to do in this field, and I am proud to say that there are over a dozen organizations in my home state of Texas hard at work on solutions. Often Texas is thought of as oil country, but our state has the opportunity to play a vital role in the development of viable alternatives.

As a ranking member of the Science Committee, I am very interested in any technology that could help keep our environment cleaner and our people more secure. I appreciate the opportunity to participate and look forward to ongoing involvement in this promising avenue of research.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROTECTION ACT OF 2003

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Social Security Protection Act of 2003 to provide the Social Security Administration with the additional tools they need to fight activities that drain resources from Social Security and undermine the financial security of beneficiaries.

Many Social Security and Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries have individuals or

organizations called "representative payees" appointed by the Social Security Administration to help manage their financial affairs when they are not capable. At present nearly 8 million beneficiaries entrust their financial arrangements to 'rep payees'. Representative payees safeguard income and make sure expenditures are made for the beneficiary's good. While most are conscientious and honest, some are not.

Despite current precautions, abuse continues. For example, the Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General investigated one case in which an organization serving as representative payee to several hundred beneficiaries inappropriately charged those beneficiaries over \$100,000 in fees, which were paid for almost entirely using their benefits. In addition, this representative payee continued to receive and accept beneficiaries' checks without notifying the SSA when beneficiaries left the organization's care or were missing.

The Inspector General reported that between January 1997 and December 1999, Social Security identified over 2,400 representative payees who misused approximately \$12 million in benefits entrusted to their management. This bill raises the standards for persons and organizations serving as representative payees and imposes stricter regulation and monetary penalties on those who mismanage benefits entrusted to their care.

This bill also picks up where previous legislation ended in stopping benefit payments to those who have committed crimes. In 1996, Congress passed provisions denying Supplemental Security Income benefits to persons fleeing to avoid prosecution or confinement. However, these fugitive felons can still receive Social Security benefits, and the Congressional Budget Office estimates we will pay over \$500 million to them over the next 10 years directly out of the Social Security trust funds. This is not right, and this legislation denies the money to those fleeing justice.

My legislation also provides tools to further safeguard Social Security programs, help shield Social Security employees from harm while conducting their duties, expand the Inspector General's ability to stop perpetrators of fraud through new civil monetary penalties, and prevent persons from misrepresenting themselves as they provide Social Security-related services.

My legislation not only prevents fraud and protects the Social Security programs, it also helps those who are legitimately seeking to receive benefits by improving the attorney fee withholding process. This bill caps the current attorney fee assessment and extends fee withholding to Supplemental Security Income claims, enabling more individuals with disabilities to receive needed help navigating a complex application process for benefits.

And finally, this legislation continues the great work of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act, helping individuals with disabilities to return to work and independence when they are able.

Protecting Social Security programs is a key responsibility of the agency and of Congress. Taxpayers must be confident that their hard-earned payroll dollars are being spent accurately and wisely, and in the best interest of beneficiaries. That is why the 107th Congress's version of this bill, the Social Security Program Protection Act of 2002 (H.R.

4070), passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support, 425-0. This bill is the culmination of bipartisan effort, as well as the cooperation and support of the Social Security Administration and the Office of Inspector General. The legislation also benefited from prior feedback by advocacy groups and law enforcement agencies. Last, but certainly not least, this bill results in a small amount of savings for both the Social Security trust funds and general revenues.

I urge all Members to cosponsor this important legislation and look forward to bringing this bill to the floor as quickly as possible.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
PROVIDING IMPROVEMENTS TO
SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I pleased today to join with Congressman Clay Shaw, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security, to introduce legislation to make important improvements in the Social Security program. These improvements would better protect vulnerable beneficiaries who cannot manage their own benefits; expand access to professional representation for disability claimants; and reduce the vulnerability of the program to fraud and abuse. The bill is very similar to H.R. 4070, which was adopted unanimously in the House last year. Unfortunately, even though the bill later passed the Senate with some minor changes, the House did not take it up again before the 107th Congress adjourned.

This bill was developed as a result of hearings our Subcommittee has held over the past several years, recommendations from the Social Security Administration and its Inspector General, and the concerns of beneficiaries and their representatives. It makes the following changes:

Representative Payees: Some Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries are unable to handle their own benefits, because they are too young, too frail, or otherwise unable to manage their own funds. In such cases, SSA appoints a "representative payee" to manage their benefits. The payee can be a family member or other individual, or an organization. The bill makes improvements in the representative payee system to prevent misuse of beneficiary funds by payees, to increase oversight of payees, and to expand the ability of SSA to repay benefits which are misused by a payee.

Attorney Fees: The bill extends SSA's fee-withholding system to attorneys who represent SSI claimants, so that they could be paid directly by SSA out of the past-due SSI benefits. In this way, more individuals would be able to gain access to professional representation in pursuing their claim. It also caps the user fee that SSA charges for processing attorney payments at \$75.

Program Protections: The bill increases penalties for misrepresenting facts relating to benefit eligibility; denies Social Security benefits to fugitive felons and those in violation of parole or probation; requires companies that offer for a fee services that SSA provides for free to

say so in their solicitations; and makes other changes requested by the Office of Inspector General to prevent fraud and abuse.

The bill also makes other miscellaneous, technical and conforming changes to the Social Security Act.

I want to especially highlight the importance of the attorney-fee changes. Professional representation is a valuable—and indeed vital—service. The disability determination process is complex. Claimants without professional legal representation appear to be far less likely to receive the benefits to which they are entitled. For example, among claimants represented by an attorney, 63.6 percent were awarded benefits at the hearing level in 2000. In contrast, only 40.1 percent of those without an attorney were awarded benefits.

Under current law, when an attorney successfully represents a Social Security disability claimant and that claimant is entitled to past-due benefits, SSA retains a portion of those past-due benefits in order to pay the attorney for the services he or she provided. This system of direct-payment, which is only available to attorneys representing applicants for Social Security disability insurance benefits, helps to promote access to representation by assuring that attorneys receive payment for their services while protecting beneficiaries by capping allowed fees.

The bill makes two important changes to the attorney fee system. First, it extends the direct-payment system to attorneys representing claimants for SSI. Without direct fee payment, SSI claimants are often unable to obtain needed legal representation, as there is no way for attorneys to be assured of payment for their services. Such claimants are often particularly in need of professional assistance, as they have no other sources of income to fall back on should their claim for disability be wrongly denied.

Second, the bill caps the processing fee deducted from the attorney's payment at \$75. Since the adoption of the processing fee in the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-170), our Subcommittee has conducted two hearings on the long delays involved in paying attorney fees. We have had some success in speeding up payment, but there remains much room for improvement. It is only fair to cap the processing fee if SSA cannot assure timely payment of fees. Hopefully, this cap, in combination with the other provisions of the bill, will also mitigate the loss of experienced representatives from the disability bar, who have been forced to close their practices as a result of delays in fee payments and the imposition of the processing fee.

In closing, I look forward to working with Chairman Shaw on this piece of legislation in the same bipartisan manner that characterized our successful efforts on the Work Incentives Improvement Act, the repeal of the retirement earnings test, and our ongoing efforts to protect the security and privacy of Social Security numbers. With this sort of collaboration, I am certain that we can pass this bill as well.

HONORING PHYLLIS SHAPIRO SEWELL AS A GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Phyllis Shapiro Sewell, who will be formally honored on February 26, 2003 by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce as a Great Living Cincinnati. The recipients of this prestigious award are selected on the basis of special professional achievement; an awareness of the needs of others; leadership; and distinctive accomplishments.

Bright and well educated, Phyllis graduated from Wellesley College with honors in economics in 1952. She often says she found her first job by perusing the newspaper classified advertisements under "Help Wanted—Female." She could not have imagined then her impact as a pioneer in women's rights in the workplace. As a junior analyst with Federated Department Stores, Phyllis' hard work and dedication set her apart as she began her ascent up the corporate ladder. By the time she was 28, she had been promoted to research director. She spent her entire career at Federated, an \$11 billion corporation operating department stores, discount stores and supermarkets. Phyllis' responsibilities centered on corporate and divisional strategic plans; studies of consumer attitudes and buying habits; and development of effective and information systems.

After retiring from Federated as a senior vice president, Phyllis had a second career serving on several major corporate boards, including Pitney Bowes Inc.; U.S. Shoe Corporation; Lee Enterprises, Inc.; Sysco Corporation; and Huffy Corporation.

Phyllis was named to Business Week's list of top 100 corporate women and to Industry Week's list of top 85 executives. She received Wellesley College's Alumnae Achievement Award in 1979 and was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame in 1982.

Devoted to her family, Phyllis is married to Martin Sewell, and they have a son, Charles. Phyllis has also given her talents to the boards of the Cincinnati Jewish Federation; Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati; and United Way.

All of us in Cincinnati thank Phyllis for her service to our community, and congratulate her for being named a Great Living Cincinnati.

TRIBUTE TO VAL ALVARADO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to Valentino Alvarado of Montrose, Colorado. Val served in the United States Navy for over 23 years and is a veteran of three American wars. Val had been in the Navy less than a year when his ship, the USS Maryland, was hit during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Today, I would like

to pay tribute to Val's life and contributions before this body of Congress and this nation.

Val joined the Navy when he was still in his senior year at Montrose High School. At age 17, Val dropped out of high school and went to boot camp in San Diego. After basic training, he was assigned to the USS Maryland, serving as a mess cook stationed in Pearl Harbor. On the morning of the attack, two Japanese torpedoes hit the bow and stern of his ship, causing many casualties to the crew. Miraculously, Val was able to escape the attack unharmed and soon reported to a new ship preparing for war.

After World War II, Val continued to serve his country through both the Korean and the Vietnam Wars. Between wars, Val made a living as a professional boxer and won the military bantam weight boxing title. After serving in the military for 23 years, Val retired and went into law enforcement. He was the first Hispanic officer ever to serve in the Montrose Police Department. He also enrolled at Colorado University, where Val received his bachelor's degree. Today, Val lives at home in Montrose and serves as a role model and mentor to his two grandchildren, who he also wants to see graduate from college.

Mr. Speaker, it is with earnest respect that I recognize Valentino Alvarado of Montrose, Colorado before this body of Congress and this nation. Throughout his life, Val has served his country with the honor, distinction, and integrity that we, as Americans, have come to respect from our nation's military. His courage is a testimony to his character, and it is an honor to represent such an outstanding American in this Congress.

TRIBUTE TO JESSICA WEHLING

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I recognize Jessica Wehling of Grand Junction, Colorado. Last December, Jessica received the highest award for a Junior Girl Scout, the Gold Award. Today, I would like to pay tribute to Jessica's commitment and accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Jessica Wehling has served her community and her country in many ways as a Girl Scout. She began her career as a Daisy Girl Scout, where she first learned the values of discipline, commitment, and goodwill that have become her hallmark. As an example of her ingenuity, when Jessica's car was hit by a truck in the Fruita Monument High School parking lot she began brainstorming parking alternatives to prevent future accidents at the school.

Through her efforts, Jessica was able to redesign the parking lot to add more spaces, a drop off area, and make it more driver friendly. Jessica also came up with an incentive program that gave preferred parking spots to students who carpooled to school. Her project displayed a great deal of ingenuity and initiative. Fruita Monument High School has now redesigned the parking lot and plans to begin Jessica's carpool incentive program in January.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the contributions of Jessica Wehling of

Grand Junction, Colorado before this body of Congress and this nation. Jessica's hard work and determination serves as an inspiration to us all, and it is an honor to represent such an outstanding American in this Congress. I look forward to witnessing Jessica's future accomplishments and wish her all the best. Keep up the good work.

IN HONOR OF MURIEL SEABROOK

HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Muriel Seabrook for serving the children and families of Jersey City. Upon her retirement, she was honored at Casino in the Park in Jersey City, New Jersey, on December 7, 2002.

Mrs. Seabrook began working as a parish social worker for the Trinity Lutheran Church in Jersey City, and became a caseworker for the Hudson County Welfare Board. In 1966, she began her 37 years of devoted service with the Jersey City Child Development Centers, Inc., "Project Head Start". Through her hard work and dedication, she rose to the position of assistant director in 1979. For her exceptional work, the National Head Start Association honored her as the 1999 Administrator of the Year.

She has further contributed to the community through her involvement in a variety of organizations, including: the Hudson County-New Jersey Child Placement Review Board, as chairperson; the National Review Panel for the Office of Human Development Services; and the Comprehensive Program Review Team, as an ACYF peer reviewer. In addition, she has been an organist and choir director in parishes throughout Minnesota and New Jersey for over 40 years.

Mrs. Seabrook graduated from St. Olaf College with a degree in Sociology. She is a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Muriel Seabrook for her selfless devotion to making Jersey City a better place for our children and our families.

TRIBUTE TO LYMAN THOMAS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life of Lyman Thomas, who sadly passed away recently at the age of 76. Lyman was a pillar of the Montrose community and, as his family mourns his loss, I think it is appropriate that we remember his life and celebrate the work he did on behalf of others.

Lyman was born to Charles and Beulah Thomas on March 22, 1926. At the age of nine, Thomas suffered the loss of his father. As a member of what has been called the "greatest generation," Lyman's life exemplifies the dedication to others embodied by many from that era. In 1944, Lyman joined the Air Force in order to serve his country during

WWII. Upon leaving the service, Lyman attended Colorado A&M (now CSU) and within a year was able to pursue a career in aviation. In June of 1948 Lyman married Lila Whitley with whom he raised two children: Lyman Jr., who sadly passed away in 1983, and daughter Lennette.

Lyman began his career with Monarch (Frontier) Airlines, eventually moving over to Delta, where his ability and dedication allowed him to assume a managerial position in the Delta Chamber of Commerce. It was while he held this position that Lyman and fourteen others founded Club 20, designed to unify the voices of over 20 counties, earning it the nickname the "Voice of the Western Slope." It was Lyman's passion for his community that caught the eye of two governors of Colorado. Lyman was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Board and later, due to the efforts of Club 20, to the committee charged with selecting a location for Interstate Highway 70. In 1953 most roads connecting Western Slope towns were dirt or gravel. It was Lyman's efforts on this committee, and the important contributions of Club 20, that were instrumental in the paving of local roads.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to pay tribute to the life of Lyman Thomas, a man whose character and impact on others is evident in the lives of all who have crossed his path. It is with admiration, respect and a sense of sadness that I recount Lyman's 76 years of life before this body of Congress. Although Lyman has left us, his good-natured spirit lives on through the lives of those he has touched. I would like to extend my thoughts and deepest sympathies to Lyman's family and friends during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH PADDILLA

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Mr. Joseph Paddilla of Denver, Colorado. Mr. Paddilla's efforts have helped countless members of the Colorado community. Through his construction work, Joe has made a difference in the lives of others.

Joe began his career in construction while still in high school, helping his father to build and remodel kitchens. Following high school, he attended the University of Florida. In 1982, Joe started his own business, Town & Country Kitchens, designing and manufacturing custom kitchens. In his role as owner, Joe was a pioneer in the construction of handicapped accessible kitchens even before building codes had mandated their construction. It was for this kind of forward thinking that Mr. Paddilla was awarded the Mayor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Disabled Community in 1983.

Mr. Paddilla's efforts to help the handicapped community have been innumerable. On behalf of Police Officer Toby Bethel, who was injured in the line of duty, Joe was instrumental in designing and financing a kitchen

that Officer Bethel could use. Joe worked diligently with the Denver Home Builders Foundation to assist Officer Bethel. I would like personally to thank Mr. Paddilla for all of his hard work on this project. He and his company have also designed and built a \$1.5 million, state-of-the-art home as a donation to Cherish the Children, an organization that provides educational assistance to children. He is currently the president and chairman of the Costuyendo Education Network, a program that educates minority and immigrant construction workers through bilingual education, teaching them how to start their own businesses in Colorado. Mr. Paddilla has helped his community in many ways, and continues with his active involvement in various philanthropic organizations.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I recognize Mr. Joseph Paddilla before this body of Congress and this nation. Through his efforts to help his community, Mr. Paddilla has served others in an exceptional manner, and I feel honored to have the opportunity to pay tribute to him.

IN HONOR OF ALEX ANTÓN'S AND
ROGER E. HERNÁNDEZ'S PUBLI-
CATION, CUBANS IN AMERICA

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the publication of Cubans in America: A Vibrant History of a People in Exile, by Roger E. Hernández, and Alex Antón. A documentary of four centuries of Cubans living and thriving in America, the book follows the history of Cubans in America from the 16th century, with the settlement of St. Augustine, to the present day.

Mr. Roger E. Hernández, a nationally syndicated columnist writing on Hispanic-American issues, along with Alex Antón, published Cubans in America in May of 2002.

Mr. Hernández writes for a weekly op-ed column distributed by King Features Syndicate to some 40 daily newspapers across the nation. He also writes articles for other newspapers and magazines, is a frequent guest on televisions and radio political talk shows, travels the country delivering lectures, and wrote several books that make up part of a series about South America for 4th through 6th grade students.

Mr. Hernández left Cuba with his parents at the age of nine. He quickly established himself in the United States and earned a BA in Journalism at Rutgers University in 1977. Currently, he lives with his wife and two children in Boonton, New Jersey.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Roger E. Hernández and Alex Antón for the publication of Cubans in America: A Vibrant History of a People in Exile. I commend these authors for celebrating the importance and influence of Cubans in our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL D. SERZEN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with honor that I recognize Mr. Russell D. Serzen of Durango, Colorado. Russell was a man of absolute integrity and strength. His conviction and dedication to Fort Lewis College's Community Concert Hall was a great asset, and yielded great benefits to his community. At this time, I would like to pay tribute to Russell's life and accomplishments.

Mr. Serzen was born in Chicago, in 1933. He attended the University of Illinois, where he played hockey and baseball. He was named Most-Valuable-Player in baseball in 1954, and that same year he signed a contract with the New York Yankees. His baseball career was cut short in 1956, as he entered the Army. He was the first baseball player to be introduced into the University of Illinois's Hall of Fame. On September 19, 1950, Russell married Elizabeth Hanson. The two were blessed with three children. During his youth, Mr. Serzen was a medical supply salesman and a founding member of the Institute for Orthopaedic Enlightenment.

In 1989, Mr. Sezen retired to Durango, Colorado. Once he was there, he became a strong supporter of Fort Lewis College's Community Concert Hall. He was always doing something to promote the community's interest in the Concert Hall, from organizing pledge drives to helping with the program planning. While living in Durango, his passions included jazz and handball. It was this passion for jazz that lead him to become so involved with the Community Concert Hall. Through his many efforts, Fort Lewis College's Community Concert Hall has grown in strength and in renown.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Mr. Russell D. Serzen before this body of Congress and this nation. His advocacy for the Performing Arts in Western Colorado has helped establish a strong tradition of music and its appreciation. His memory will live on in the lives of his family, his friends, and the many people who were touched by his life.

TRIBUTE TO POSADA AGENCY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the Posada Agency of Pueblo, Colorado for their outstanding commitment to Southern Colorado's homeless citizens. Recently, the Posada Agency held an open house celebrating the opening of the newly remodeled Elko Motel. The Posada Agency renovated the building to provide a safe living area for Pueblo's homeless families. Today I would like to pay tribute to their service before this body of Congress and this nation.

The Posada Agency for the homeless is a non-profit organization that provides for the immediate needs of the homeless while simultaneously working to overcome the problems that have led to their homelessness. The

agency incorporates the services of many philanthropic groups, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations to provide the resources necessary for the fight against homelessness. Through their transitional housing and employment assistance programs, Posada has been able to serve over 37,000 homeless in Southern Colorado.

The Elko Motel was purchased by the Posada Agency two years ago with financial contributions from the El Pomar foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. Since then, the Posada Agency has been completely renovated. Today, the hotel has new plumbing, wiring, and carpeting, providing a structured and safe environment for Pueblo's homeless families.

Mr. Speaker, it is with earnest respect that I recognize the Posada Agency for the homeless before this body of Congress and this nation. I would like to commend all the men and women of the agency for their tireless commitment to such a noble endeavor. Through their dedication and goodwill, the Posada Agency has been able to help countless numbers of homeless get back on their feet, and it is an honor to represent such an outstanding group of Americans in this Congress.

IN HONOR OF NORTH HUDSON
REGIONAL FIRE AND RESCUE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor North Hudson Regional Fire and Rescue (NHRFR) and its outstanding professional firefighters and rescue personnel who are the pride of the five northern New Jersey communities that they serve with such great distinction—Union City, Weehawken, North Bergen, West New York and Guttenberg.

In the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, there is renewed national appreciation and respect for the heroic men and women who put their lives at risk in the line of duty every day in every American community. These are truly the heroes in our midst, each and every one an authentic profile in courage. I share the pride of my fellow Hudson County citizens in the outstanding performance of NHRFR fire and rescue personnel in support of their NYFD and NJ-based colleagues on 9/11, and each and every day preceding and following that horrific tragedy.

Prior to my Congressional service, I had the privilege of being the mayor of Union City, New Jersey. As a mayor, I learned a lot about what it takes, in terms of money, management and leadership capability, and training time to develop and maintain a fire and rescue fire-responder team that is prepared and equipped to handle every conceivable emergency situation in a community. I am grateful to have had that experience, because I gained a great deal of understanding and insight about what we, as a nation, must now do to ensure that our fire and rescue first responders have the tools and the training to meet the growing demands and dangers of their public safety mission.

Since 9/11, the mission of our local fire and rescue first responders has expanded exponentially, and is now elevated to the level of

a national defense imperative. With the ominous continuing threat of more terrorist attacks on American soil, our local fire and rescue teams face a daunting array of new and highly-dangerous emergency response conditions, ranging from "conventional" bomb attacks on buildings, aircraft and public transportation systems, to attacks involving "dirty" nuclear bombs, lethal chemicals and biological warfare materials.

Regrettably, the President's words about providing resources for first responders have not yet been matched with funding that our local fire and rescue teams desperately need for upgraded equipment and specialized training to meet the growing challenge of post-9/11 terrorist attack scenarios. I have publicly urged Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge to release critical funding for our nation's first responders. The President's words of praise for fire-fighters and rescue personnel at the World Trade Center disaster site included his promise to deliver major funding for first responders. This Presidential promise must be kept, because failure to do so imperils the safety of the American public, and endangers the very lives of the heroic men and women whose job it is to run toward the danger and help to save their fellow human beings.

Specialized training for our local fire and rescue first responders is a key area where there is a critical need for additional federal funding. In order to underscore the importance of good training, I would like to share with my colleagues an article about North Hudson Regional Fire and Rescue that appeared in the December, 2002 edition of *Fire Engineering*. I commend this article about NHRFR to my colleagues, because it will provide them with a "window" through which to view all of the complexities involved in planning and managing technical rope rescues. Though the NHRFR team might regard this operation as "just another day at the office", the techniques employed in their dramatic rescue of a man who had fallen 100 feet off the Palisades cliffs should conjure up images in the minds of my colleagues about the application of these highly specialized technical skills in disaster site settings.

I also want to extend my congratulations to North Hudson Regional Fire and Rescue for its achievement as the winner of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities 2002 Innovation in Governance Award for its exemplary Quantitative Safety Project. NHRFR's achievement has been further recognized by the National League of Cities, which has added NHRFR's project information to the NLC national research database of "best practices" models.

Mr. Speaker, I ask consent to include the text of the December 2, 2002 *Fire Engineering* article about North Hudson Regional Fire and Rescue with my remarks in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From *Fire Engineering*, Dec. 2002]

PLANNING AND MANAGING TECHNICAL ROPE RESCUES

(By Anthony Avillo)

On October 11, 2002, North Hudson (NJ) Regional Fire & Rescue responded to the Palisades cliffs for a reported injured man. The victim was discovered approximately 100 feet below Boulevard East in Weehawken, New Jersey. Rescuers successfully removed him from the cliffs and transported him to a local hospital, where he was treated for injuries

suffered in the fall and for hypothermia (see photos and cover photo).

Successful technical rope rescues (TRRs) do not just happen. Successful rope and rigging operations are the end product of a program approach based on planning, preplanning, practice, and implementation.

There are three priorities to address whenever operating at a technical rescue:

Priority 1: Safety of operating personnel (Command's overriding concern).

Priority 2: Stabilization of the victim medically and of possible incident complications.

Priority 3: Victim removal.

KEYS TO SUCCESS

For a positive outcome, you must consider the following points:

Preplanning. A large percentage of TRR decisions lend themselves to preplanning. The "we'll figure it out on the mountain" school of thought is a failure-rich mindset. When preplanning, consider tactics, strategies, and action paths. Preplanning clears the screen for the rescue commander and allows him to focus on unique aspects and variables of the particular incident. TRRs require rapid, on-site decisions and tactics. This task can consume command energy and divert attention away from other command and control goals. If you preplan system construction, apparatus placement (anchor points), and on-line and in-system personnel assignments, the IC and rescue personnel will arrive on-scene with a continuum of pre-determinations and are more able to respond to the variables.

Training and technical skills. North Hudson Regional performs three or four of these rescues a year, and each presents its own set of challenges. Improvisation is often the name of the game to be successful. Remember, however, that only through mastery of the technical skills and equipment required to conduct a technical rope rescue is safe improvisation possible. To be able to safely improvise at the scene takes countless hours of training and extreme familiarity with the equipment.

At times, it may be necessary—based on staffing and the demands of the rescue—to teach simple rescue techniques such as belay line on the spot as the incident is unfolding. This still requires initial personnel with technical skills.

Preassigned positioning of the rescue team. Successfully conducting this type of operation requires developing an organization prior to the incident. Training on rigging construction and rope and knot skills is essential, but you also must focus on preassignment of incident positions and responsibilities. Address span-of-control issues and key operating positions, and spell out responsibilities and duties in standard operating procedures. Preassign primary and backup personnel for all on-line and rigging positions. It is a good idea to have at least one member of each on-line team trained to at least the first responder or EMT level so that you can perform an immediate victim assessment when you reach the victim. Also preassign Command positions such as rescue group leader, hauling boss (that member assigned to run the actual hauling/lowering operation), rigging master (the member assigned to oversee all anchoring and rigging operations), hot zone safety officer, and other support positions. Continuous cross-training of personnel will increase organizational and operational flexibility and thus effectiveness.

Apparatus positioning. You get only one chance to position properly at this type of incident. Officers should stage apparatus for optimal tactical flexibility. Congesting the scene, especially in a remote area where

many of these rescues take place, will only complicate the problem. Aerial apparatus should get the key positions, as the device will likely be used as a gin pole from which to lower personnel and hoist victims. Again, preplan. Companies responding without aerial capability must not drive into the middle of the operational zone.

Foremost in the minds of the IC and the first-arriving officers is the availability of anchor points. These should be "bombproof," or immovable. Common anchor points include apparatus, trees, telephone poles, and solidly anchored fences. In apparatus-unfriendly areas, big trees or big rocks have been used. Leave a clear path between anchor points, hauling/lowering devices, and the target zone.

Command and control. Strong command and control are integral to safe, organized, and coordinated rescue operations. The key to this organization is decentralization of the rescue ground. If this can be resolved prior to an incident, the less the IC has to think about in regard to how to break down the operational area and to whom to assign these responsibilities.

Predesignation of rescue personnel coupled with an effective SOP that is both adhered to and enforced is the first step in this organizational process. One of the most crucial positions assigned is the Operations Section chief, who will act as a buffer between the IC and the rescue operation, freeing the IC to attend to other issues pertinent to the incident, while not directly participating in the operation itself.

Control of the scene by designating operational zones is the next step in the command and control process. Address scene and perimeter control in SOPs, similar to establishing haz-mat control zones. Control zones are as follows:

Target zone: The area where the victim is located. Keep the number of target zone personnel to a bare minimum, usually two rescuers. This is the most dangerous area on the rescue ground, usually the last zone established and the first terminated. A major focus of Command should be to minimize operational time in the target zone. It is essential that, whatever number of rescuers are on-line, there be an equal number of rescuers (basically a rescue rapid intervention team) properly geared up and ready to go should something go wrong in the target zone.

Hot zone: The main area where technical rescue operations (rope systems and rigging) take place. Participation in the hot zone should be by "invitation only" and be limited to those personnel whose duties and responsibilities are directly related to the safe setup, operation, and breakdown of rescue systems. The rescue group leader, hot zone safety officer, hauling boss, rigging master, and rescue group support personnel are located in the hot zone.

Warm zone: The area where support of the technical rescue operation is attended to. The Operations Section chief is generally located in this area. He should liaison with the hot zone safety officer and rescue group leader and reinforce and support the hot zone activities as required. He will also keep Command informed and updated on incident progress. Generally, if the incident is going smoothly, the Operations Section chief remains in the warm zone. He only moves if the need arises. The incident safety officer, whose duty is to monitor overall scene safety, is generally located in the warm zone but may spend some time in the other zones as the situation dictates. Also initially located in the warm zone are those personnel who will support the operation and work in the hot zone once the rescue system is assembled. They are essentially hauling personnel,

who are best kept a safe distance from the main setup area until the hauling/lowering is ready to proceed.

Cold zone: This is the area where incident support operations are directed to both the internal rescue operation and external activities required to coordinate and bring the incident under control. The Command Post is located in this area, providing direction and overall control of the incident. An accountability officer and entry control point supervisor should also be located in this area. In addition, firefighter rehab and EMS are located in the cold zone, as are personnel assigned as tactical reserve.

Public zone: This area is for such extrinsic activities as public information. The department's public information officer should establish a press area. Uncommitted apparatus staging should also be located in this zone. Perimeter and scene control is nothing new to the fire service, but it is a critical and often overlooked portion of the technical rescue operation.

Victim/target zone access and stabilization. The main priority of the entire operation must be the victim and where he is located (the target zone). The rescue group leader must determine the safest, most effective path for rescuers to reach the victim.

Assess target zone terrain. Ask yourself, What hazards are present? Is it dark? Is a steep slope involved? Is there a frictionless footing hazard such as wet or icy terrain? Are there anchor points in the target zone that can be used as temporary tie-offs for rescuers? What special equipment will be required to work in the target zone, and what is the best way to get it there? Utility umbilicals should be built into all rescue systems to ferry equipment and supplies to the target zone. Lifelines should NOT be used for this purpose.

Then, assess the victim: Can you even see the victim? Is there more than one victim? Can a thermal imaging camera help? What is the probable medical profile of the victim(s)? You must try to improve victim comfort as soon as possible. This may include conducting a medical assessment in the target zone, providing blankets to keep body heat from being lost, and administering fluids and possibly intravenous medication prior to removal. The rescue group leader must keep the victim's comfort in mind as the incident unfolds. Sometimes, so much is going on top-side that the victim's needs take a backseat. Remember, the entire complex operation stems from the victim's predicament.

EMS considerations. EMS will play a large part in this type of rescue, from administering to the victim to medical monitoring of rescue personnel. As with any other agency, determine the scope of EMS personnel's participation, roles, and responsibilities in advance. Assign an EMS group supervisor, preferably prior to the incident. The bulk of the EMS responders should remain in the cold zone, with unobstructed access into and out of the operational area. A skeleton crew of EMS personnel with equipment should stand by in the warm zone until the victim has been packaged and is being removed from the target zone. EMS personnel should be in a safe area (you can call this area the victim landing zone) where they can have immediate access to the victim when he is brought safely topside.

Unassigned personnel/staffing considerations. To conduct technical rope rescues safely and properly requires much staffing. Command must ensure that a tactical reserve is on-scene as soon as possible. A good rule of thumb to follow is to double the number of personnel you think you will need. To

maintain proper control over incoming personnel, establish strict staging and non-assigned personnel policies. Additional personnel should report to the command post for assignment. This requires a gatekeeper position similar to the lobby control officer in a high-rise operation. Establish a gatekeeper position at each zone to keep track of who passes in and out.

From the command post, assign staffing as per the requirements set forth by the operational zones. As stated, personnel will be required for the bull work, the working of rescue and belay lines. These personnel are not usually essential to the rigging operation, so stage them in the warm zone. When they are needed, conduct a briefing outlining their hot zone duties. In the hot zone, brief them again prior to operation.

You will need other personnel for equipment and stretcher shuttles, lighting, and other support operations not directly involved in the rescue but essential to the operation. Remember, too, that other odd jobs will always pop up. The work of support personnel keeps the operation moving in the proper direction.

Communications. Communications during large-scale incidents can be a nightmare if you do not properly control and predetermine them before the incident. The rescue team (on-line), the rescue group leader, and the hot zone safety officer at a minimum should operate on a rescue frequency (basically the fireground frequency) while the Operations Section chief and the IC maintain a Command frequency. Aides can be used to monitor the rescue frequency.

Although many of the communications will be face-to-face, also establish a hand signal communication system—especially for the member operating the aerial device. From the turntable, it may be difficult to hear the commands of someone guiding the device over the target zone.

Establish communication with the victim as soon as possible. Make every effort to put him at ease. Explain to the victim that he should not risk further injury by trying to respond to conversation or attempting to help the rescuers in the rescue operation. Also explain to the victim what is taking place and how the rescue will unfold. Establishing confidence and trust will greatly assist in the transition (vertical trip) from the target zone to the hot zone.

Safety. Safety must be the IC's overriding concern at all times. He must have zero tolerance for firefighter injury and must communicate this attitude through strong command and control.

A predesignated hot zone safety officer must oversee the operation in the hot zone and monitor and advise on activities in the target zone. He must have the technical skills and training of the other members operating in the hot and target zones. An overall incident safety officer should monitor hazards in the other designated operational zones. Safety should permeate the entire rescue ground.

Aerial devices must be rated for rope operations. Light-duty ladders rated for 250 pounds at the tip are not acceptable. Aerials should be rated for at least 500 pounds at the tip. Platforms may be well-suited if they have an adequate tip load to handle such rescues. Use aerial devices as gin poles only. While rotation of the devices is acceptable and will be necessary, using the devices for raising and lowering a load is not advised. This should be done only by manipulation of the rope systems.

All rope systems for rigging and on-line operations should be redundant—no member

should operate with fewer than two ropes attached to him. The same is true for any victims moved on-line in litters.

Use utility tag lines on all equipment lowered and raised. This will eliminate unwanted equipment movement and help steer it in the right direction.

Another safety consideration is proper lighting of the target zone and topside, especially if the incident will extend into the night hours. Request a light unit well in advance of when you'll need it.

Engine noise and exhaust can create problems on-scene. Shut down apparatus not directly involved in the operation, especially those in the hot zone just being used as anchor points.

Technical rope rescue operations often show just how well or how poorly a department is prepared on the command and tactical levels. How well are you prepared?

TRIBUTE TO PRINCE ARTHUR
SPEIGHTS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Prince Arthur Speights of Pueblo, Colorado for the selfless act of courage he displayed on November 8, 2002. Prince's quick actions, along with the efforts of other students from Centennial High School, helped Edith Lichtenberg to safety after flames engulfed her home.

On November 8, 2002, billowing smoke one block from Centennial High School prompted a group of students—Prince Speights, Clint Albrecht, Nick Pino, Kathy Ortiz, Linus Trujillo, and Taylor Proctor—into action. Driving toward the smoke, the group quickly discovered the bushes and trees in 86-year-old Edith Lichtenberg's yard ablaze and used a cell phone to contact emergency dispatchers. The flames rapidly spread to the house and the group moved swiftly to make sure no one was in the home. With the fire engulfing the front of the house, the students jumped the locked fence around the backyard to warn anyone who might still be inside. Noticing the back door open and seeing Ms. Lichtenberg still inside, they caught her attention and guided her outside away from the flames. Prince courageously helped Ms. Lichtenberg out of the house personally, and the group moved her to safety.

The youths maintained their composure during a time of adversity and conducted themselves in a fashion that has brought honor to themselves, their families, their school, and the entire community of Pueblo. It is always heartening to see young Americans meet such an extraordinary circumstance successfully. Courage like theirs strengthens and protects our communities every day.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today and recognize the heroic efforts of Prince Speights before this body of Congress and this nation. Prince's quick actions, coupled with those of his fellow students, prevented a terrible fire from ending in great tragedy. Their selfless actions are an inspiration to us all, and it is an honor to represent such an outstanding group of Americans in this Congress.

TRIBUTE TO TAYLOR PROCTOR

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