

found that many immigrant worker casualties go unreported.

One Orange County worker died from a fall into a 175-degree vat of chemicals at an Anaheim metal-plating shop. Though the company's instruction manual clearly forbid walking on the 5-inch rail between tanks, it was printed in English, not a language that the worker understood. A subsequent inquiry into the accident found that many of the recent hires were neither trained to handle hazardous materials nor proficient in English.

(The Orange County (CA) Register, Oct. 21, 2001, originally reported by Natalya Shulyakovskaya and Alejandro Maciel)

LANGUAGE BARRIER IMPEDE POLICE INVESTIGATIONS

After failing to solve only two of 11 homicides in the prior 12 months, Lexington, Ky., police had failed to make arrests in six of 13 homicides in an eight month span in 2001. Officials attribute the lack of closure to the difficulty with the language barrier, encountering more witnesses and relatives who spoke English poorly or not at all. "Any time you have a language barrier, it's going to slow you down," said Lt. P. Richardson of the Lexington Police.

(Lexington (KY) Herald-Leader, Aug. 28, 2001, originally reported by Jefferson George)

LANGUAGE BARRIER OFTEN TURNS ROBBERY INTO MURDER

Police in New Jersey stepped up patrols after a series of attacks on gas station attendants in the early morning hours. Gas station employees in New Jersey are especially vulnerable, as the Garden State is one of only two states to prohibit self-serve gasoline.

Police surveillance and drive-bys were increased to allay fears among workers, though officials cautioned late-night gas attendants, 95 percent of whom are estimated not to speak English, to not resist when confronted with a robbery situation. "The language barrier could play a big part," said Sgt. Steve Chromansky. "Sometimes a robber might think someone is stalling, when they're just unsure of the situation."

(The Bergen County (NJ) Record, Aug. 28, 2001, originally reported by Leslie Koren and Peter Pochna)

SPANISH-LABELING MISTAKE IN BABY FORMULA

Hundreds of batches of infant formula were recalled when it was found that the preparation instructions in Spanish were incorrect. As written, the Spanish instructions created a product that could lead to seizures, irregular heartbeat, renal failure or death in infants.

(The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Jul. 11, 2001)

BILLIONS SPENT ON MEDICAL MISHAPS

An immigrant woman gave her 85-year-old mother a dangerously high dose of blood pressure medicine because she couldn't understand the label's English-language instructions. The Food and Drug Administration estimates that \$20 billion a year is spent hospitalizing people who, because of the language barrier, take the wrong dose of medication, take the wrong medication entirely or mix drugs in dangerous combinations. Health experts say millions of immigrants risk injury or death because warnings on medicine bottles only come in English.

(Associated Press, Oct. 12, 1997, originally reported by Lauran Neergaard)

ON EVE OF WAR D.C. VETERANS STAND WITH NORTON ON INTRODUCTION OF D.C. VOTING RIGHTS BILL

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the "No Taxation Without Representation Act" in the House, and simultaneously our good friend, Senator JOE LIEBERMAN, will introduce the same bill in the Senate. The bill would afford the residents of the District of Columbia the same congressional voting rights enjoyed by all Americans. The introduction of this legislation follows a well-attended Town Meeting on voting rights last week of determined D.C. residents intent on obtaining Congressional voting rights, especially today as the nation prepares for war.

Our bill is particularly inspired by the District of Columbia's 46,000 veterans, who are represented by three distinguished veterans who appeared with me at a press conference this morning. I especially thank my friend, former Secretary of the Army Clifford Alexander, who also served in the United States Army. Secretary Alexander has long worked for equal rights for the American people, and especially for D.C. residents, and was the lead plaintiff in one of the D.C. voting rights cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, *Alexander v. Daley*. I am also personally indebted to Secretary Alexander, who preceded me as an especially distinguished chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. I am also grateful to the other veterans who are here today. Both are D.C. residents and graduates of the service academies—Wesley Brown, the first black graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a former chair of my Service Academy Selection Board and George Keys, a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and current Selection Board Member as well as a former chair. The Service Academy Selection Board performs an indispensable service for D.C. residents and for our country. Board members spend countless hours screening, interviewing and selecting candidates for me to nominate to the nation's service academies.

I also invited the current chair of my Service Academy Board, Mr. Kerwin Miller, to participate in the press conference today, and he originally agreed to speak. However, Mr. Miller not only serves on my Service Academy Board, he also is the Executive Director of the D.C. Office of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Miller was forced to decline for reasons that sharply underscore the very reason why we are here today. Mr. Miller is unable to appear at this press conference because of a rider attached to the District's annual appropriations legislation that prohibits city officials, except for elected officials, from lobbying on behalf of their own voting rights. Not only is the District of Columbia denied voting rights, but the Congress adds insult to injury by attaching this outrageous provision to our own budget to deliberately hamstringing the city in its quest for voting rights. This provision is hideously un-American, and I again will seek to have it repealed, especially this year.

In seeking full congressional representation, we often have stressed the District's taxpaying status because most of us pay federal taxes and because uniquely among American citizens, D.C. gets no vote in Congress in return. However, today we emphasize a duty of citizenship far more important, requiring far greater sacrifice. Ever since America's first war, the Revolutionary War, that was waged to eliminate taxation without representation, D.C. residents have fought and died for their country. They have done so often disproportionately. In World War I, the District suffered more casualties than three states; in World War II, more casualties than four states; in the Korean War, more casualties than eight states; and in Vietnam, more casualties than ten states.

Since I have been in Congress, I have participated in ceremonies that have sent D.C. residents to the Persian Gulf War, to Afghanistan, and now to the Iraqi border. I have never been able to vote in their name, and our residents are without any representation in the Senate. Yet, in today's military, each is a volunteer who has willingly taken on the most weighty of all the obligations of citizenship. Thus, I introduce our voting rights bill today for D.C. residents but particularly for our residents serving in the military today and the nearly 50,000 veterans who live in our city.

Encouraged by the 9-0 Senate Committee vote that took the city's voting rights bill to the Senate floor last year, we are now in the throes of preparations to take our case to the country. Let us begin by telling America what too many do not know about service and sacrifice without representation.

I urge my colleagues to support this vital legislation.

TRIBUTE TO BOB HITZHUSEN

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a long and exceptionally distinguished career at the Missouri Farm Bureau will soon come to an end. Mr. Bob Hitzhusen has announced his retirement after 25 years of service to the farmers of Missouri.

Bob launched his professional agriculture career after graduating with a degree in Agriculture Economics from Iowa State University. After serving as an admissions counselor at Iowa State for two years, he joined the legislative staff of Congressman Wiley Mayne in 1975, serving in Congressman Mayne's Washington, DC office.

Bob joined the staff of the American Farm Bureau in 1975 as a full-time lobbyist, starting his career with the Farm Bureau. In his position as lobbyist, he worked with several congressional delegations and followed key agricultural issues.

Bob joined the Missouri Farm Bureau staff as Director of National Legislative Programs in 1978. In this position, he was responsible for Farm Bureau's policy development program and was actively involved in lobbying for Farm Bureau members on state and national levels. He has played an active role in every major farm program re-write since the 1973 Farm Bill. In addition, he has been actively involved in international trade legislation, including organizing agricultural support for the North