

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CASEY BROWN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Casey Brown of Ignacio, Colorado. Mr. Brown has been a dedicated citizen and leader of the Southwest Colorado community and it is my honor to pay tribute to his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Casey graduated from New Mexico State University and the University of Wyoming with a focus on wool production. After college and a brief teaching stint at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, California, Casey returned to the Four Corners area to help his father run their family ranch in New Mexico. Casey has continued to manage the ranch, which now includes a herd of 2,500 sheep and 200 cattle.

Casey has always been active in agricultural and community activities, serving as a member of the San Juan County Fair Association, the New Mexico State University experimental station advisory board, the Pine River Irrigation District board, and as the founder of Citizens for Common Sense Government. Additionally, Casey is the past president of the Colorado Wool Growers Association, which recognized him as Wool Grower of the Year in 1993. Among other honors, Casey was the La Plata County Cattleman of the Year in 1992, DACRA Agriculturalist of the Year in 1999, and earned special recognition for service by the National Public Lands Council in 1994.

For his significant contributions in the agricultural community, Casey was named the seventh recipient of the Southwestern Colorado Livestock Association's Distinguished Service Award, which honors members who have gone above and beyond in their contributions to the livestock industry. Mr. Speaker, it is with honor that I commend Mr. Casey Brown before this body of Congress and this great nation for his dedication to his trade and his community. His contributions have greatly benefited the people of the Four Corners region and I am honored to have the opportunity to represent such a fine Coloradan. I wish Casey the best of luck with all of his future endeavors.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1104, CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this rule, H. Res. 160.

The rule in the House should mirror the opinion of our colleagues in the Senate, that H.R. 1104 should be reduced to one single issue: The Amber Alert system.

The rule as written, however, provides for debate on extraneous issues ranging from sentencing guidelines, to penalties for possession of child pornography, to the investigative powers of the U.S. Secret Service.

While these and the other extraneous provisions in H.R. 1104 are worthy of our full consideration, those provisions should not be considered in H.R. 1104.

The House should debate and pass a clean Amber Alert bill, just as the Senate passed a clean Amber Alert bill with S. 121.

By passing a clean Amber Alert bill we send a clear message to America's families that the safety of our children is a priority second to none.

We also increase the likelihood that more child abductions will have the happy ending experienced by the family of Elizabeth Smart, who, as we all know, was safely returned to her family after a nine-month-long kidnapping ordeal.

The Republican majority's decision to bog down the Amber Alert bill with several unnecessary and unrelated provisions is inexplicable and endangers our children.

It seems as though the majority has used every conceivable measure to load up the bill and make it more difficult to pass.

The Senate set aside their partisan agendas and took a giant step toward protecting America's children by passing a clean, bipartisan Amber Alert bill.

The Majority should set aside their agenda and eliminate these extraneous provisions so that the House, too, can pass a clean Amber Alert bill.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 412, a clean Amber Alert bill.

I oppose the rule, H. Res. 160.

CONGRATULATING MEMBERS OF THE MATIGNON HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two more members of the Matignon Warriors boys' basketball team that won the MIAA Division 4 state championship on March 10, 2003. Last week I submitted for the record the Warriors' team roster, and inadvertently left out Jimmy Burns and Michael Flaherty. I would like to correct that today, and congratulate them on their successful season.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL SERVICE ORGANIZATION OF SCHOLASTIC

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to recognize the fine accomplishments of the National Service Organization of Scholastic, which is the largest employer in Jefferson City, MO. Scholastic was rewarded the PR News 2002 Corporate Social Responsibility Award.

Scholastic has been awarded this honor due to their ongoing innovation campaigns and ongoing programs. Scholastic was honored in the category of Diversity Communications for its partnership with Lincoln University on sponsorships, scholarships, job internships, and book donations. The company sponsors programs that provide speakers and curriculum literature, and also recognizes outstanding achievement of faculty, staff, and volunteers for local schools.

Scholastic also has a long-term commitment to Missouri through their annual summer book donation program, which provides children at more than 150 schools with a donation of three books for each student for summer reading. Scholastic also provides Lincoln University books and materials each month for their children's library. In addition, the company fosters recruitment opportunities and sponsors writing and student awards programs. Many of Scholastic's employees also serve on Lincoln University's advisory board.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the National Service Organization of Scholastic should be honored for their commitment to serving their local communities. They can be proud of their accomplishments. I know the Members of the House will join me in congratulating Scholastic for this well deserved award.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROBERT DUNCAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with much pleasure that I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Robert Duncan of the San Juan Technical School located in Denver, Colorado. Robert has dedicated his life to passing on his extensive knowledge and experience, providing many students with otherwise unthinkable opportunities. I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge Robert's dedication and commitment to education before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Robert is known for his expertise in automotive technology and his dedication to his students. His recent award recognizes Robert's ability as a teacher, particularly emphasizing the dramatic increases in enrollment in

• 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.

Robert's courses and his success recruiting women into his automotive technology program. Furthermore, Robert has won acclaim for his unique talent for welcoming special education students and helping them excel in the program. Great teachers, like Robert, draw on their own practical experience in order to bring the real world into the classroom. Recently, the State Board of Community Colleges and Occupational Education named Robert faculty member of the year.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand today and recognize Robert Duncan before this Congress and this Nation. We should all express our deepest gratitude to teachers like Robert. They make an enormous difference one life at a time, providing countless students with opportunity and hope. Teaching truly is a noble calling, and Robert has answered that call.

LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I commend to my colleagues' attention the following letter sent to President George W. Bush by members of the California Legislature stating their opposition to war against Iraq. I am proud of these 52 lawmakers who represent a diversity of California's citizens. They understand firsthand the cost of this capricious act. Financing this war will mean less federal investment in schools and nursing homes and the loss of basic services for the working poor, the disabled and mentally-ill. They are rightly concerned about the impact this war will have on those young Americans who have been called to fight. They are disappointed about the diminished respect and influence America will have in the world given the President's use of military power, not the interests of peace and democracy, in his approach to foreign affairs. I commend my fellow Californians for their eloquence and outspokenness on an issue of such great importance to the American people.

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE,
March 4, 2003.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
President, United States of America, The White House, Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: As Members of the California State Legislature, we respectfully write in opposition to a war on Iraq without a formal resolution by the United Nations Security Council and a declaration of war by Congress.

As elected representatives of the largest population and economy in America, we have many concerns over the policies your administration is pursuing. These include:

A lack of credible evidence that meets the standard of "beyond a reasonable doubt" that shows the imminent danger Iraq poses to America's essential interests. Neither Colin Powell nor Hans Blix presented a case sufficient to warrant an attack by American forces.

A failure to persuade other nations to support our intentions. Unlike the aftermath of the Attack on America, you have not been able to enlist the support of other key nations, who presumably have been given even more intelligence data than has the American public. This lack of geo-political solidarity substantially weakens America's case in the court of world opinion. Further, it en-

hances the prospects of fighting a war with few allies.

Lack of clarity about the possible instability in the Middle East during the war and subsequent foreign occupation of Iraq. It seems unlikely that the Muslim world will for long passively accept America's incursion—whatever our provocation.

Respectfully,

Don Perata, Byron Sher, Jack Scott, Mike Machado, Tom Torlakson, Gloria Romero, Wesley Chesbro, Debra Bowen, Deborah Ortiz, John Burton, Liz Figueroa, Gil Cedillo, Sheila Kuehl, John Vasconcellos, Edward Vincent, Richard Alarcón, Jackie Speier, Dede Alpert.

Paul Koretz, John Longville, Mervyn Dymally, Christine Kehoe, Jackie Goldberg, Fabian Nuñez, Sally J. Lieber, Ronald Calderon, John Laird, Loni Hancock, Judy Chu, Patricia Wiggins, Alan Lowenthal, Hannah-Beth Jackson, Gene Mullin, Cindy Montañez, Marco Firebaugh, Patty Berg, Wilma Chan.

RECOGNIZING THE SOCIAL PROBLEM OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT, AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEM

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 113 recognizing the social problem of child abuse and neglect, and supporting efforts to enhance public awareness of the problem. Although we live in the world's wealthiest nation, we have yet to eradicate some of the most disheartening social ills that plague our society. Throughout this great republic, it is a fact that many of our children are in great need, impacted by the horrifying realities of unsafe and unhealthy living environments, wherein abuse and neglect tear away at the very core of their youthfulness.

With regards to the prevalence of this problem, in 1999, an estimated 3,244,000 children were reported to Child Protective Services agencies as alleged victims of child maltreatment. Child abuse reports have maintained a steady growth for the past ten years, with the total number of reports nationwide increasing 45 percent since 1987. Neglect represents the most common type of reported and substantiated form of maltreatment. In 1996, 25 States provided the following breakdown for reported cases: 62 percent involved neglect, 25 percent physical abuse, 7 percent sexual abuse, 3 percent emotional maltreatment, and 4 percent other. For substantiated cases, 31 States gave the following breakdowns: 60 percent neglect, 23 percent physical, 9 percent sexual, 4 percent emotional maltreatment and 5 percent other.

Figures issued by another study conducted in 2000, which surveyed 48 States, representing over 95 percent of the population under 18, reveal a serious need for concern. Approximately 1,356 children died due to causes of child abuse and neglect. More specifically, children under 5 years old accounted for four out of five of all fatalities reported, which served as the 2nd leading cause of

death of children ages 1–4 in the United States. In that same year, children under 1 year old accounted for two out of five of all fatalities reported.

In the State of Texas, Child Protective Services reported there were 131,147 investigations of child abuse and neglect and 47,532 were confirmed victims. In fact, of the child abuse and neglect related fatalities in the State of Texas, figures from 2001 data show Harris County with the most occurrences.

To this end, there is no doubt that child abuse and neglect continues to be a significant problem in the United States. These statistics can only begin to help us understand the scope of the problem—who is affected and what extents to which they are. Nonetheless, this legislation makes way for others in the public who may not ordinarily think about such problems more acutely aware of these issues.

Our children are our future, but their health and safety in our society continues to decline. Everyone has an obligation to ensuring children have a chance at a great life and a prosperous future. The reality is alarming, but our commitment to the goals of this legislation must be strong. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, GREATER RIVERSIDE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, MORENO VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AMERICAN RED CROSS, SALVATION ARMY AND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, MARCH CANTEEN, HARVEST CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP AND OTHERS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to several organizations whose patriotism, dedication and contributions to the troops deploying out of March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, California are exceptional. As our troops have been preparing to deploy to the Middle East many local organizations have taken it upon themselves to provide an outpouring of support and assistance. The local organizations involved have been the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce, Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce, American Red Cross, Salvation Army and Community Foundation, March Canteen and Harvest Christian Fellowship.

March Air Reserve Base has a long history of honorable service to our country and once again it will hold a place in U.S. military history. The substantial airlift of 6,500 tons of cargo and the movement of 26,400 Marines headed for overseas has been helped by public donations of food and \$30,000. The volunteers have handed out fruit, potato chips, cookies and paperback books to each Marine passing through the Marine deployment terminal. The Marines were also given personal items in order to provide a measure of comfort during their stay in the Middle East.

The groups and individuals involved in the volunteer effort expressed nothing but appreciation and admiration for the men and women

who have answered their call to duty. Their organization, determination, and work on behalf of our military are an example for every citizen of the United States of America. Their own call to the duty of volunteerism represents compassion and caring through organization. As our soldiers carry out their mission in Iraq, those last acts of generosity, kindness, support and love will be remembered as our troop's face what may be the most difficult time in their lives.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce, Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce, American Red Cross, Salvation Army and Community Foundation, March Canteen, Harvest Christian Fellowship and others have shown their patriotism and I am proud of the work they have done for our troops. I am honored to have such dedicated community organizations in my congressional district as well as a military base that contributes to the national security of our country and the liberation of the Iraqi people.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF GERARD F. DOHERTY TO THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gerard F. Doherty, a distinguished resident of the 8th Congressional District. Mr. Doherty is a graduate of Malden Catholic High School and Harvard College. He earned a Masters Degree in Health Administration at Wayne University and a Law Degree from Suffolk University.

Gerard Doherty's involvement in state politics began in 1957 as a member of the Massachusetts' House of Representatives, where he served until 1965. He served as the Chairman of the Massachusetts Democratic Party from 1962 until 1965 and, in 1968, Mr. Doherty managed Senator Robert F. Kennedy's Presidential campaign in Indiana, helping Senator Kennedy win the Indiana Democratic primary. Since 1961, Mr. Doherty has been practicing real estate, public policy, and energy law in private practice.

Mr. Doherty also serves numerous organizations in Massachusetts. He is a Trustee at Suffolk University in Boston and a Board Member and Trustee of Malden Catholic High School. He serves on the Board for the Friends Charlestown Catholic and the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. He is also a member of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation.

To honor his contributions to a number of causes and organizations, the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation named Mr. Doherty their 1998 "Irishman of the Year." That same year, the Charlestown Community Awards Committee presented Mr. Doherty with the "Unsung Hero Award" for his service to the Charlestown Community. On May 28, 2002, Mr. Doherty was honored with the "Vision of Hope" award by the John F. Kennedy Center in Charlestown, Massachusetts. This award paid tribute to Mr. Doherty and his wife Marilyn as "persons who, through selfless ef-

forts to help others and by their own exceptional example, provide a vision of hope to Massachusetts citizens."

Gerard Doherty's lifelong commitment to Massachusetts is admirable and deserving of recognition. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is fortunate to have a citizen who is involved in so many worthwhile efforts in his community. I congratulate Gerard Doherty on his extraordinary public service and I wish him continued success.

STATEMENT ON HOUSE
RESOLUTION 153

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to explain my vote on House Resolution 153, a resolution "recognizing the public need for fasting and prayer in order to secure the blessings of Providence for the people of the United States and our Armed Forces during the conflict in Iraq and under the threat of terrorism at home".

Like all Americans, I strongly support our nation's Armed Forces and hope for the successful completion of their mission in Iraq and their safe return home. But, upon taking the oath of office, each Member of Congress has sworn to uphold the Constitution. As such, we must carefully differentiate the intent of the resolution we vote on from its language.

House Resolution 153 has the laudatory goal of protecting our troops and our citizens from harm. But, despite the sponsor's intentions, the actual language calling for prayer and fasting and asking for the intercession of Providence violates, in my view, our Constitutional obligation to respect the separation between church and state.

The resolution may reflect the religious views of some of our citizens as well as some of our Members. But, it may also offend the religious views of others and, consequently, be divisive rather than unifying—a concern clearly anticipated by our Constitution. Thus, I cannot vote yes in support of the resolution.

HONORING SUSAN BOWLER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Susan Bowler of Craig, Colorado. Susan is the public health nurse manager at the Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association, an organization that serves the health care needs of Routt and Moffat counties. Susan has done much to improve the lives of others in her community, and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize that service and the important role she fills in her community before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Susan grew up in an Air Force family and got her first exposure to medicine in hospitals all over the world. She began working with infants in Thailand at local orphanages as a teenager and made infant care a career after

receiving her nursing degree. Susan came to Craig in 1992 after 12 years working with newborns in California, ready to retire. Instead, a friend inspired her to join Visiting Nurses. Now Susan is facing the challenges of public health head-on, meeting the needs of the local community. VNA operates programs for child immunization, nursing services to jail inmates, nutrition, and even contributes to Moffat County's response to potential bioterror attacks. Susan and her staff play an invaluable role in maintaining the health of the citizens of northwest Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, the role of a public health official is full of challenges and opportunities, and it is a great privilege to salute Susan Bowler before this body of Congress and this Nation for her willingness to take on those challenges. Her dedication to addressing the health care needs of Moffat and Routt counties is an inspiration to others and an immense benefit to her community.

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING
GOALS AND IDEALS OF
NATIONAL RUNAWAY PREVENTION
MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support House Resolution 57. I strongly support the goals and the ideals of "National Runaway Prevention Month."

It shocks me, that every year, it is estimated that up to 2.8 million youths in America are living on the street. In my home state of Texas, more than 100,000 children between the age of seven and 17 run away from home each year. This shocking amount indicates that there is a significant need for resources and outreach programs that effect this population. Runaway children have families, friends, and carry a despondence so great that they feel they can no longer stay in their homes.

We need to take action and prevent teens running away from becoming commonplace in our country. Many family related problems and pressure cause teens to leave home.

This is a problem that is not limited to any class or racial group. Millions of homes and families are involved. This is a national and community problem. We are obligated to stand up for the frustrated youths who are banished from the only homes they know out into the street. Many of these runaways have been physically, sexually, or emotionally abused.

Imagine a child, who feels so alone in their world and feels their only option is to live in the street. The pain and loneliness they feel only creates a negative cycle, which leads to depression, isolation, and desperation. We need to place an emphasis and value on the community services that can reach out and help these youths. If no help is given, how can we expect the youth to turn around their life and get back on track? A runaway teen does not have an easy life, and often turn to drugs or prostitution to simply survive.

I am proud to stand here today and speak on behalf of those runaway youths whom few before me have spoken for. This is an issue that we must address and come to understand

thoroughly, not something to be swept under the rug. The youths who flee their homes in search of a safe haven on the street to be given an opportunity to seek help.

We need to increase public awareness about the circumstances and trauma of the runaway youths. The National Network for Youth and the National Runaway Switchboard provides a myriad of services and resources to runaway and homeless youths. It is our job as congressmen to support these movements and tell them we value their services. Both National Network for Youth and the National Runaway Switchboard are cosponsoring National Runaway Prevention Month. This is a time for us to commend them on their work and offer our continuing gratitude with this resolution to support National Runaway Prevention Month.

I applaud the organizations that take this first step to reach out. My heart goes out to the youths and families that have been failed by the system. It is in your honor that Congress will recognize the National Runaway Prevention Month.

**MOBILIZED RESERVE FAMILY
HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2003**

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, America has relied heavily upon the men and women of the National Guard and Reserves. Whether protecting and defending the nation here at home, or as part of an overseas deployment, these citizen soldiers have made tremendous sacrifices in support of our national security interests.

At the same time, the families of these brave men and women are also making enormous sacrifices. Currently, over 215,000 members of the guard and reserve are mobilized. Many of these individuals are deployed to assignments that will likely last anywhere from six months to more than a year. For the family members of those deployed for such long durations, the challenge of maintaining a stable home environment can be daunting. This is especially true when considering the issue of health insurance.

Employers are not legally required to provide health insurance coverage for an employee and his/her family once that employee is called to active duty. As a result, the family in many cases must make the switch to TRICARE in order to continue receiving health benefits. This can be extremely burdensome since many hospitals and family doctors outside the military health system do not participate in TRICARE. In addition, individuals with pre-existing conditions face an uncertain future with respect to their ability to regain employer-sponsored health insurance once the mobilized family member returns from active duty.

To address this problem, I am introducing today, the Mobilized Reserve Family Health Care Act of 2003. This legislation will provide families of reservists and guard personnel with the option of continuing their private health insurance coverage while their family members are called to serve lengthy active duty deployments. Under this bill, these families will have

the ability to retain their private health insurance coverage by utilizing the continuation-of-coverage rule offered by COBRA. While the family would assume the cost of retaining the private health insurance, the legislation would provide tax credits to cover the cost of the insurance. A substantial portion of the tax credits will be refundable, while the remaining amount can be included as part of the family's itemized tax deductions. The tax credits will enable these families continue their private health insurance coverage without a financial burden.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me and my fellow cosponsors in assisting the families of our mobilized National Guard and Reserve personnel and address this important health coverage issue.

**TRIBUTE TO CAROLE A. GUDDE,
OUTGOING CHAIRMAN OF THE
BOARD FOR THE GREATER RIVER-
SIDE CHAMBERS OF COM-
MERCE**

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to making their communities a better place to live and work. Carole A. Gudde is one of these individuals. After a year of exemplary service, we salute Carole as the outgoing Chairman of the Board for the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce.

As one of the oldest, largest and most influential chambers in the state, the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce (GRCC) works closely with local government and other entities to stimulate development and improve the quality of life in Riverside County. Carole Gudde's vision, leadership and ability to work with others have continued the mission of the GRCC in its work to promote economic development and pro-actively address problems within the community. The GRCC is approximately 1,600 members strong and Carole has been instrumental in maintaining and adding members to the Chamber.

Carole's efforts as Chairman of the Board have extended beyond the boundaries of Riverside and into the State Capitol and Washington, DC. She has been actively involved in advocating pro-business legislation and fighting against measures that would put strains on local small business. She consistently kept members informed of the happenings in Sacramento as well as Washington, DC and made sure that Riverside's voice was heard.

Carole has also been instrumental in promoting quality education for our children. Carole is also a member of the Executive Council of the Riverside Community Hospital, the YMCA Professional Business Women's Association, and the A. Gary Anderson School of Management Forum. She has been a recipient of the Small Business Eagle Award, 1996 Volunteer of the Year Award, and was named a

"Woman of Distinction" by the Business Press in 1998. She is also the owner of Archive Management Service in Riverside.

Carole's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. Carole's involvement in the community and on behalf of the local businesses makes me proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she exits as the Chairman of the Board for the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARC AND
JOAN ADLER**

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Marc and Joan Adler of Glenwood Springs, Colorado and thank them for their contributions to their community before this body of Congress and this nation. The couple is closing the Glenwood Springs pet store that they have owned for over thirty years, and, though their store will be dearly missed, I am happy to congratulate the Adlers on their retirement.

Marc and Joan both worked at Valley View Hospital when they first moved to Glenwood Springs in 1971, and decided to open their own business in their living room. The result was the Glenwood Fishbowl, a pet store which built upon Marc's boyhood experience with aquariums. The business grew and moved to downtown Glenwood, where the pet store expanded to include toys. Eventually, the store moved to the Glenwood Springs Mall in 1982, under the name Marc's Toys and Pets. In addition to running their business, the Adlers have been active community leaders, with Marc serving on the City Council and for two years as Glenwood's mayor.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Marc and Joan Adler and wish them all the best in retirement. Their store was a shining example of local entrepreneurship and a cornerstone of the Glenwood Springs small business community for over thirty years. Their kind and dedicated service to their customers will be sorely missed in Glenwood Springs. I congratulate the Adlers on their well-deserved retirement.

SECURING BLESSINGS OF PROVIDENCE FOR PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND OUR ARMED FORCES

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the President should designate a national day of prayer and fasting for all Americans; and calling on all people of the United States to "seek guidance from God to achieve a greater understanding of our own failings."

I'm sure God may have something to say about the President's failure to preserve peace in the effort to disarm Iraq. But, we do know what the Bible says, Mr. Speaker: "blessed are the peacemakers."

Most major religious organizations in the world—the Vatican, Muslim, Buddhist, Jewish, and Protestant religious groups—oppose war in Iraq on moral grounds. Yet, this resolution seeks to deflect moral criticism from the President's immoral act of war, and despite his refusal to listen to the leaders of his own faith. Regardless, religion is not an area for Congressional debate.

I respect the right of everyone to reflect on these difficult events as they see fit. I understand the value of people of various religions or moral convictions finding resolve in their beliefs or faiths during this trying time. That is everyone's right. However, this resolution today has Congress encouraging all Americans, regardless of their beliefs, to engage in specific religious acts that are Christian in nature.

Our country was founded on the principles of free expression and religious liberty. The Constitution requires that Congress must not legislate religion, but instead honor the diversity of convictions and beliefs in our nation. This resolution fails to respect the separation of church and state and to uphold our commitment to honor religious diversity. I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

IN HONOR OF LANCE CORPORAL
JOSE GUTIERREZ

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Marine Corps Lance Corporal Jose Gutierrez, who was one of the first Americans to give his life in battle during Operation Iraqi Freedom. I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the heroism of this young man.

Corporal Gutierrez was a symbol of America's promise. Born in Guatemala, Jose lost his parents at a young age and spent years on the streets in his home country. He came to the United States seeking a better life, and after moving around a bit, found a home with foster parents in Lomita, California, a small town in my congressional district.

Jose attended local schools—North High School in Torrance and Harbor College in Wilmington—playing soccer and hoping one day to study architecture. His foster brother told local newspapers that "he joined the Marines to pay back a little of what he'd gotten from the U.S."

Mr. Speaker, it makes me proud to learn about the passionate feelings this young man had for his adopted country. Undoubtedly, they are feelings shared by hundreds or perhaps thousands of the other young men and women who volunteered for military service and are now participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I am proud too of the citizens of Lomita, who immediately began to organize tributes to Corporal Gutierrez, including plans to add his name to the memorial to fallen soldiers adjacent to the local post office, requesting that

post office to fly its flag at half-mast, and launching a drive to fly 82 U.S. flags in honor of all of Lomita's fallen soldiers, sailors and airmen.

Corporal Gutierrez's ultimate sacrifice underscores for us how fragile and how precious are the freedoms we enjoy. He died to keep us free.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL
STAN SHURMANTINE, RET.

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Stan Shurmantine, of Lexington, MO, who recently retired from the United States Army Reserves after 28 years.

On February 28, 2003, Stan ended an outstanding career in the Army Reserves. Through the years, he has dedicated himself to serving the American people.

Currently, Stan serves as the manager of IBS Industries, Inc., in Independence, MO. IBS honored Stan's military service with a reception, which was attended by 250 guests.

Stan in addition to his military service, has served his home community of Lexington, where he lives with his wife Marcie. He is a councilman and also serves as mayor pro-tem.

Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Stan Shurmantine has honored the United States Army Reserves with service for 28 years. As he continues his work at IBS Industries, Inc. and the city of Lexington, I know that the Members of the House will join me in wishing him all the best in the days ahead.

TRIBUTE TO DARRELL VEACH

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Darrell Veach of Cortez, Colorado. Darrell is a dedicated citizen and leader of the Cortez community and it is my honor to pay tribute to his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Darrell is a third-generation stockman and a Korean War veteran who began his career raising sheep before becoming a cowboy. He is well known throughout the community as a good steward of his land and the environment. In addition to Darrell's ranching activities, his service to the local community goes back over thirty years with the Boy Scouts, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Montezuma County Planning Commission, and the Colorado Cattleman's Association. The Southwestern Colorado Livestock Association, of which Darrell is a board member and past president, honored him as its 2003 Stockman of the Year. A proud family man, Darrell shares his love for the outdoors with his children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with honor that I commend Darrell Veach before this body of Congress

and this great nation for his dedication and leadership within his community. His contributions have greatly benefited the people of Cortez and I am honored to have this opportunity to represent such a fine Coloradan. I wish Darrell the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JOHN DIGILIO

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Digilio as Chef de Chemin de Fer of La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux. The "Forty and Eight," as it is popularly known, is an independent fraternal organization of veterans comprised of approximately 50,000 veterans from World War II and the Korean, Vietnam and Desert Storm conflicts. The members of the "Forty and Eight" dedicate much of their time to their Child Welfare Program, Nurses Scholarship Trust Fund, as well as many activities dedicated to Americanism, respect for the flag, the Constitution and Law and Order.

Chef Digilio grew up in Bay Shore, New York and entered active duty in the United States Army in 1969. From 1970–1971 he served in the 95th Evacuation Hospital, DaNang, Republic of Vietnam. After his return to the United States, he entered the New York Army National Guard and worked his way up the ranks to senior commander of all medical units by 1986. On December 1, 1996, John was brevetted and placed on the New York State Retired List as brigadier general by the Governor of New York upon his retirement from military service.

I am most grateful for Chef Digilio's dedicated service to our county over the last 34 years. In this time of war, especially, it is critical that we take the time to show our support for America's men and women who have served in uniform. I wish the "Forty and Eight" a festive and enjoyable Homecoming this upcoming weekend.

REVOCATION OF EXECUTIVE
ORDER LIMITING ACCESS TO
PRESIDENTIAL RECORDS

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce a simple bill to revoke Executive Order 13233, "Further Implementation of the Presidential Records Act," which President Bush issued on November 1, 2001. My bill would replace this Order with President Reagan's 1989 implementing Executive Order 12267. During the 107th Congress, on April 11, 2002, Representative STEVE HORN introduced the "Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2002" (H.R. 4187). I co-sponsored this bi-partisan bill. The Government Reform Committee held hearings on the Bush Order and then, after introduction, on Mr. HORN's bill. On October 9th, the House Government Reform Committee reported out an amended version of this bill. On

November 22nd, an accompanying House Report (Report 107-790) was published. Unfortunately, the full House never considered this bill.

In the 1978 Presidential Records Act, Congress clearly intended to make Presidential records available for Congressional investigations and then for the public after a 12-year period. The Act authorized the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to issue implementing regulations. President Reagan's Order expanded on NARA's implementing regulations. The Reagan Order clarified some areas not specifically addressed in the regulations. Most importantly, the Order identified only three areas where access to Presidential records could be limited—if disclosure might impair national security, law enforcement, or the deliberative processes of the executive branch.

President Bush's Order changed these access limitations. In a nutshell, law enforcement was dropped and two areas were added: "communications of the President or his advisors (the presidential communications privilege); [and] legal advice or legal work (the attorney-client or attorney work product privileges)." This broadening could severely limit Congressional access to key documents in its investigations of a former Administration.

Besides broadening the grounds for executive privilege claims, the Order is inconsistent both with the Presidential Records Act itself and with NARA's codified implementing regulations. NARA's rules were promulgated after the public had notice and an opportunity to comment, as required by the Administrative Procedure Act.

In November 2001, a week after issuance of the Order, I raised concerns in a Subcommittee hearing on the Order. I questioned the Administration witness about the legal and substantive justification for the policy changes. After the hearing and further discussions with White House officials, I had hoped that the Administration would amend or revoke its Order. Unfortunately, it has not done so. As a consequence, I believe that legislation is needed to void the Order. My bill would do just that.

The Order violates not only the spirit but also the letter of the Presidential Records Act. It undercuts the public's rights to be fully informed about how its government operated in the past. My bill would restore the public's right to know and its confidence in our government.

SALUTE TO MR. PETER MICHAEL STEFFES

HON. JOEL HEFLEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Peter M. Steffes, who recently retired from the House Committee on Armed Services after 41 years of distinguished public service. Pete's entire career was dedicated to national security and the defense of our country.

Pete's career began in 1961 in the Air Force as an Airman Basic, E-1; and after 21 years of rapid advancement through the ranks, he retired as an E-9, a Chief Master Sergeant.

On October 1, 1983, Pete joined the staff of the Armed Services Committee as a professional staff member where his dedication and exhaustive commitment to national security continued.

While initially assigned to the military installations and facilities subcommittee and the environment restoration panel, Pete assisted in the drafting of the Superfund Reauthorization Act of 1985, a consequential piece of environmental legislation of national significance. Pete was assigned to the Military Readiness Subcommittee in 1990; and in 1996, he was chosen to serve as lead professional staff. While on the Military Readiness Subcommittee Pete was responsible for one-third of the Department of Defense Budget. Pete's previous military experience and unique insights helped clarify the true state of military readiness for the Armed Services Committee, the Congress, and the American people. Through Pete's efforts, the committee has been able to compel the Department of Defense to examine and portray its level of readiness more honestly, and contribute the commitment of resources necessary to raise military readiness to a higher level of preparedness.

Also during this time, Pete lead the drafting efforts for the public sale of the Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve that brought over \$3.8 billion to the U.S. Treasury. Pete was also responsible for a multi-year effort to reform the operational structure of the Armed Forces Retirement Home to properly care for veteran military service men and women.

In addition to his subcommittee responsibilities, Pete also arranged and accompanied Members of Congress on 128 congressional delegations (CODELS). He has jokingly remarked that four and one-half years of his government service were spent traveling.

Pete's committee service spanned four presidents, eight secretaries of defense, five committee chairmen, and six staff directors. I speak for myself, past chairmen and ranking minority members, and any and everyone who has had the privilege of working with Pete, in thanking him for his tireless work for our military men and women, and his dedication to the Armed Services Committee.

Pete is married to the former Barbara Eileen Jones. They have two children, Nicholette and Timothy, and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, we wish Pete Steffes all the best in his new position as vice president of Government Policy, National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA). Members and committee staff will surely miss him, and we will always remember and be thankful for his distinguished service to the House of Representatives and our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO THE 509TH BOMB WING AT WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the outstanding men and women of the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, who are responsible for the most advanced flying machine in the hands of our armed forces, the B-2 Spirit Bomber.

Nearly 3,500 members of the 509th Bomb Wing, operating from both their home base in Missouri and from a forward-deployed location, have kept B-2s in the air around the clock, day and night, since the beginning of our campaign to liberate the people of Iraq.

The 509th Bomb Wing started Night One of Operation Iraqi Freedom by launching six B-2s and hitting 92 separate regime, command-and-control, and other high-value targets in downtown Baghdad. This unprecedented feat in aerial history was successfully completed by crews flying 38-hour round-trip sorties.

A tremendous effort has gone into training and equipping our great American airmen. They have proven, once again, that the B-2 is the first to fight. In this case, they have been the only bomber thus far that has been put directly in harm's way over Baghdad. The B-2 has demonstrated that it is an invaluable asset to coalition operations.

We recognize and thank the members of the 509th Bomb Wing for their sacrifices, both at home and overseas. I know that the members of the famed 509th are also proud and greatly appreciative of the outstanding support they continue to receive from their friends and neighbors in Missouri. On this day and every day, our thoughts and prayers are with all our military members and their families.

TRIBUTE TO NED AMSTUTZ

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Pastor Ned Amstutz of the First Baptist Church in Durango, Colorado for his extraordinary dedication to the community. After 8 years of service, Ned is retiring from the church, and today I would like to honor his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

After first working as a lawyer and a school-teacher, Ned found his calling in the ministry and attended seminary in Dallas, Texas. After years of dedicated service, Ned is known as a pastor with boundless energy whose outreach efforts extend to all sectors of the community and support programs such as the Durango Manna Soup Kitchen and a monthly lunch for local business people. Ned's outreach also covers the globe, supporting worldwide missionary programs including one in Belarus, where he once spent time as a guest teacher at a Bible college. Further demonstrating his dedication to Durango, Ned serves as the chaplain for the Durango Police Department, working with both victims and police officers in crisis situations.

Mr. Speaker, the work of Ned Amstutz has clearly had a profound effect not only in Durango but throughout the world. Ned's tireless determination is an inspiration to his congregation and to his community as a whole. His energy will be greatly missed at First Baptist and I wish him the best in his future endeavors. Thank you Ned for your service.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND APPRECIATION FOR THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES PARTICIPATING IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

SPEECH OF

HON. MELVIN L. WATT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, some may think that my vote of "present" on this Resolution is a cowardly way out. In fact, a vote of "present" seems to me to be the only reasonable and logical vote to cast for the following reasons: I dare not vote "no" and express opposition to the two parts of the Resolution I so strongly support. Those two parts of the Resolution put Congress on record to express the "unequivocal support and appreciation of the Nation to the members of the United States Armed Forces serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom, who are carrying out their missions with excellence, patriotism, and bravery; and to the families of the United States military personnel serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom, who are providing support and prayers for their loved ones currently engaged in military operations in Iraq." If the Resolution limited itself to these two parts, the Resolution would no doubt enjoy the unanimous support of the Congress.

On the other hand, I cannot in good conscience vote "yes" for the part of the Resolution that "expresses the unequivocal support and appreciation of the Nation to the President as Commander-in-Chief for his firm leadership and decisive action in the conduct of military operations in Iraq as part of the ongoing Global War on Terrorism." I have previously stated that I do not support the President's decision to pursue this war without having exhausted every possible alternative short of war. I have also expressed my firm belief that pursuing war to enforce a United Nations Resolution without having even majority support of the members of the United Nations and the UN Security Council will undoubtedly feed the perception of U.S. arrogance around the world and increase the prospect of terrorism domestically and internationally. While our military superiority will no doubt assure our military victory in the war against Iraq, we have no effective way to defend ourselves and innocent people against individual acts of terror. For me to express "unequivocal support" for the President to follow a course of action I believe is misguided would be both contrary to my own beliefs and contrary to the overwhelming sentiments I have heard and continue to hear from my constituents on a daily basis.

I applaud the efforts of those who sought to craft a Resolution supporting our troops and their families. I am in full support of their efforts and those parts of this Resolution. While I do not agree with them, I also respect the opinions of those who believe, in good faith, that the President's actions deserve "unequivocal support." I resoundingly reject the efforts of those who would use this resolution as a means of dividing Congress at this critically important time, especially those who would do so for political reasons or to make themselves appear more patriotic than those who intend to vote "no." I do not feel obliged to be put to such a choice on a Resolution that has no substantive or binding effect. Con-

sequently, having made this explanation, I am content to vote "present."

FLOYD SPENCE POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I loved Floyd Spence like a brother and he would be honored by the fact the House is honoring him in Lexington, South Carolina, by naming a post office to commemorate his life and service to the United States. He was a dear friend, a colleague, and a stalwart for our nation's armed services and the country.

In addition to his zeal and dedication on behalf of his constituents in South Carolina, I admired his outlook on life. Floyd was determined to squeeze every drop of life he could from his time on this earth . . . and he succeeded.

He was supremely dedicated to his duty to South Carolina, to our armed services, and to the United States of America. I know this because I traveled with Floyd to places on every part of the planet to inspect our military bases. Wherever we went, he and I were the ones who insisted we talk to the enlisted men, not just the generals. Floyd served in the military; he and I were among the few Members of this House who served in uniform.

Floyd was a great hero, and a great friend to thousands of people here on Capitol Hill, in the Pentagon, throughout the services, and in his beloved South Carolina. I still miss that giant of a man with the funny laugh he was quick to share.

The camaraderie often noted as now missing in the House of Representatives has led our critics, and ourselves, to say that we lack either bi-partisanship or simple human trust. But because of my friendships with so many of my Republican colleagues, most notably my friend Floyd Spence, I know the trust we engender here is real and it works on behalf of the American people.

I thank the committee for honoring my friend, our colleague in this momentous way. Floyd would be so proud. I am proud for him and his family.

THANK YOU MR. ANTHONY MEYER

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. Anthony Meyer for his volunteer service to the Center of Outreach and Services for the Autism Community and congratulate him for his receipt of the NFL Community Quarterback Award.

Twice a week for the past five years Mr. Meyers has volunteered at the office of the Center of Outreach and Services for the Autism Community, COSAC, in Central New Jersey. His primary responsibility has been to create, then send autism information packets to the approximately 6,000 individuals who

contact the Center annually. Many who call are parents who have just received the devastating news that their child has autism. Through Tony's efforts, parents receive valuable information in a timely manner that short-cuts their delay in seeking necessary services for a son or daughter.

An addition, on a regular basis, Tony donates an evening for group work with autistic adults. He provides support for their job crises, he coaches them on searching for employment and he provides a social outlet for people who are sometimes branded as different. He also serves on the Board of Trustees for COSAC where he provides advice on all issues pertaining to autism, particularly on the needs of the adults with whom he has recently worked.

What makes this effort particularly remarkable is that Tony Meyer is himself autistic. He did fairly well in school, but never made friends. He held several jobs, but most were minimum wage positions that did not take advantage of his intellect or potential. It was not until Tony decided to turn his efforts toward volunteer work at COSAC that he discovered a place that appreciated his skill, needed his work and valued his perspective. As a result of their appreciation and respect, they nominated Anthony Myers for the prestigious NFL award.

I ask that all the Members join me in congratulating Tony as one of the ten recipients of the NY Giants Community Quarterback Award for making a significant volunteer contribution to a non-profit organization.

INTRODUCING THE AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CONSISTENCY ACT

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce an important piece of legislation that will assist not only amateur radio operators, but society as a whole.

Organized amateur radio operators, or "hams," regularly provide emergency communication when regular communications channels are disrupted by disaster. Hams have formal agreements with federal agencies such as FEMA and private relief organizations like the Red Cross. Hams are federally licensed volunteers and provide a variety of important communications services that protect lives while using their own equipment without compensation.

With the growth of developed communities, amateur radio operators have begun to fall under an array of inconsistent regulations, making it increasingly difficult for them to operate. Burdensome regulations are imposed on amateur radio operators making it difficult, and in some cases impossible, for them to erect antenna vital to their communications capabilities. We should remember that many of these antennas are stealth in nature. Hams can place antennas behind drainpipes or attach flexible antennas along the gutters of their own home. In some cases, when the homeowners associations have found these antennas, the Hams were forced to take it down.

Amateur Radio operators, who work with local disaster communication groups, are finding it more difficult to erect antennas. Sometimes homeowner associations arbitrarily forbid installation of any kind of antenna. It is especially important to keep in mind that most homeowners associations are not elected, and most Hams have no recourse or appeal process to pursue.

This is particularly troubling given the role that Hams have played in communications during emergency and catastrophic situations in the past. Not allowing Hams the equipment they need could restrict communication to the local community in similar situations in the future.

To remedy this situation, we have introduced legislation, the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act, which seeks to ensure the continued viability of amateur radio through consistent application of federal regulations.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act is based upon a 1985 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulation that required state and local authorities to "reasonably accommodate" amateur radio antennas. This ruling failed, however, to address situations affecting private land developments.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act will include homeowner associations and other land use regulators in the regulation. This bill would grant the FCC the authority to consistently apply the 1985 ruling to all homeowners, regardless of whether they are petitioning state or local authorities, or public land-use regulators or homeowners' associations. This simply means that these organization will be required to work with homeowners to achieve a "reasonable accommodation" when homeowners seek to install an antenna on their own property.

The FCC recognizes the invaluable service amateur radio operators provide to our nation. Congress also recognizes the contribution that Hams make. These good faith negotiations will help ensure that amateur radio operators' technical needs and the public service they provide are met while preserving the general welfare of the community.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO
GIVE GREATER CHOICE TO
THOSE WORKING TO HELP THEIR
FAMILIES

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce bipartisan legislation addressing the issue of remittances. This is a simple bill aimed at an increasingly complex issue: how recent immigrants and New Americans send support to their families "back home."

People come from around the world to the United States, seeking not just to live the American Dream, but also to help support their families in their native lands. New Americans have a history of supporting those without the same opportunities, whether it is the Mexican farm worker helping his family today or the Irish settler who helped keep his family during the potato famine more than 100 years

ago, Americans never forget where they come from.

Today, getting the money earned in the United States to one's family is easier than ever. Large money-transfer companies can send money almost anywhere in the world in an instant. More and more banks and other financial institutions are also providing these services.

But one group of institutions, often heavily involved in local and immigrant community projects, is limited in their activity. To use a local credit union for check cashing and wire transfer services, you must be a member.

Many in the immigrant community do not realize the benefits of credit union membership and see this is a barrier. They would rather pay higher prices for the service than go through the paperwork involved in joining—even though they are fully eligible to be a member of a specific credit union. It is, in effect, a barrier for them to take advantage of another member of the marketplace.

This bill, which I am pleased to introduce with my colleagues Mr. GONZALEZ, Dr. PAUL, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. LATOURRETTE and Mr. SHERMAN, would simply allow credit unions to provide these services to people who would be eligible to join that credit union, but for whatever reason choose not to do so.

The marketplace thrives on competition. In a recent study by the Greenlining Institute, an organization dedicated to expanding access to financial services for disadvantaged communities, the credit union had one of the lowest fees and best exchange rates for those seeking to send money overseas. Everyone should have the opportunity to take advantage of this service.

There are still many issues that need to be addressed on the issue of sending support back to one's family. In my own district, not only do Latin American immigrants continue to support those overseas, but also many from Asia, India and even the Ukraine. We need to make sure that they have access to good services and are not taken advantage of by a few less-scrupulous businesses.

An open market, with true competition will help us improve the costs and other burdens associated with this industry.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE AND EMILY
BENEDICK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mike and Emily Benedick of Yampa, Colorado for the generosity and dedication to their community that they exhibited throughout their lives. Mike and Emily sadly passed away within a week of each other recently and I join their friends and family in mourning this tremendous loss. It is truly an honor to recognize their lives before this body of Congress and this nation.

Mike and Emily were married on June 30, 1928 while Mike was a coal miner in Oak Creek. An avid card player, he spent a great deal of time at his brother-in-law's saloon, The Antlers. Five years later, Mike and Emily were both working at The Antlers, which the couple

eventually purchased in 1937. Mike and Emily ran the Antlers Café and Bar in Yampa, Colorado for nearly sixty years and saw the Yampa community through the momentous changes of the twentieth century, always providing a comfortable meeting place for the miners and ranchers of the area. The Antlers changed with the times, too, becoming a pool hall during prohibition, and later adding food to the menu.

The Antlers was always a place to visit, and any customer knew they would receive a friendly welcome from Mike and Emily. Despite many hardships after World War II in the 1950s and 1960s, Mike and Emily stayed open for business. In 1996, Mike and Emily closed the bar, and it was sold shortly thereafter. However, customers and community members alike recall Mike and Emily as welcoming and warm-hearted people, who were always stern in their ways.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that we mourn the loss of Mike and Emily Benedick. Their genuine concern and care towards others have truly made a difference in the lives of their family, friends, and community, and they will be greatly missed.

ORVILLE L. FREEMAN

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, the state of Minnesota lost a friend in February.

Born in 1918, Orville L. Freeman grew up in south Minneapolis, where his father owned a men's clothing shop. Graduating from Central High School at the height of the Depression, he attended the University of Minnesota because, as he stated, it "was convenient and affordable."

For 25 cents an hour, Freeman scrubbed walls at the University Hospital to help pay for his college tuition. As a summer job, he watered grass at Memorial Stadium and harvested grain with crews in Minnesota and North Dakota.

And somewhere in between, he made time to play quarterback for the University of Minnesota Gophers football team.

He received his diploma from the University of Minnesota magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa in 1940 and began law school in 1941. But, Freeman's law school career was cut short with the bombing at Pearl Harbor that same year.

The day after the attack, Freeman volunteered for the Marines. During World War II, as a Second Lieutenant, Orville L. Freeman led his combat patrol behind enemy lines on the island of Bougainville in the South Pacific in 1943. He was hit in the jaw by a bullet but managed to successfully lead his men to safety. Second Lieutenant Freeman spent 8 months in a military hospital, overcame partial paralysis, learned to speak again and was eventually awarded a Purple Heart before he was discharged as a Major.

Upon returning to Minnesota, Orville completed law school at the University of Minnesota, married his college sweetheart Jane Shields and had two children, Constance and Michael.

Mr. Freeman's interest and involvement in politics began as a college student at the University of Minnesota where he befriended

soon to be United States Senator, Hubert H. Humphrey. They worked tirelessly to ensure the re-election of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and committed themselves to the reorganization of Minnesota's Democratic party.

1944 marked the year that brought the Farmer-Labor and Democratic parties together to form the Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) party in Minnesota. Together, Humphrey and Freeman built the DFL party—uniting farmers, unions, academicians, small-business owners, veterans and female activists through their common interests and goals for a better Minnesota.

With his political involvement and role as party secretary—Orville Freeman shaped the DFL and gave the party a face. His position gave him the opportunity to schedule events, control the party message and make connections in the community. He eventually made two bids for statewide office, first in 1950 for Attorney General—and then in 1952 for Governor. Although Freeman lost these two statewide races, at the suggestion of his good friend Humphrey, Freeman ran for governor again in 1954. Humphrey was running for re-election to the Senate that year—and wanted someone he knew he could work with in the governor's office.

Freeman's 1954 campaign for governor brought a new dynamic to political races in Minnesota. As the leader of the DFL, Freeman organized a statewide television campaign, and implemented a sample ballot that proved a very successful tool for the DFL that year, and years to follow. The sweeping DFL victory included electing Minnesota's first woman member of Congress, Coya Knutson, and winning all but one statewide DFL race. Freeman became the first DFL governor in Minnesota history, and was re-elected for two consecutive terms in 1956 and 1958.

In his three terms as governor—Freeman's commitment to education for all students was truly inspirational to me. He understood the strong desire for a quality education for all Minnesotans. He instituted the state-aid system for K-12 education that guaranteed a basic minimum education for all students, regardless of their school districts' wealth. In addition, he was a strong supporter of making college more accessible and affordable to students.

In 1960, Governor Freeman delivered the nomination speech in support of John F. Kennedy as the Democratic Party candidate for President of the United States and actively campaigned for Kennedy throughout Minnesota. Lutherans in Minnesota were apprehensive about electing the first Catholic President for fear the Vatican might influence him. This inspired Freeman to participate in a statewide television broadcast stating that religious prejudice had no place in Minnesota politics. While Freeman's dedication to Kennedy paid off—Kennedy won Minnesota by a 20,000 vote margin—Freeman unfortunately lost his re-election bid for governor by 20,000 votes.

The new President did not forget the strong support Governor Freeman had given him in Minnesota. Kennedy rewarded these efforts by nominating Freeman as Secretary of Agriculture, and Freeman continued his public service in Washington, DC.

As Secretary of Agriculture, he initiated a revolution in U.S. programs by launching the Food Stamp program, proposing the School Breakfast program, as well as the Women, In-

fants and Children (WIC) program. Additionally, he was a major proponent of food safety.

Secretary Freeman remembered those whose most basic needs were not being met by establishing a goal of eliminating hunger. Tying American farmers with the world market, he expanded the Foreign Agriculture Service and visited other countries to encourage opportunities for further U.S. trade abroad. Globally, he organized a massive program to ship U.S. grain to India that was instituted early enough to avert an impending famine.

Vice President Walter Mondale, his friend and mentor, may have put it best by saying this of Orville Freeman:

He was one of the great public men in modern Minnesota history and American history. He fits Tom Brokaw's definition of America's greatest generation—enlisting in the Marines, becoming an officer, being seriously wounded and almost dying, fighting back, becoming a lawyer, leading the new generation in the DFL that was so successful and regaining the governorship."

Orville L. Freeman, Minnesota's 29th Governor, died at the age of 84 on Thursday February 20, 2003 in Minneapolis, MN.

Minnesotans will miss the leadership and the dedication of Orville Freeman—his family will miss the wonderful, loving family man.

From the military to elected office to an appointed office, Orville Freeman dedicated his life to public service. He was a dynamic leader, an organizer and pioneer for his party. He was always a champion for the state of Minnesota and the United States and a champion for those that could not fight for themselves. It is from his example that we should learn and follow.

The Honorable Orville L. Freeman is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Jane, their two children Constance and Michael, and three grandchildren Katie, Beth and Matthew.

THE SPIRIT OF AMERICAN VOLUNTEERISM

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend America's spirit of volunteerism and to highlight an organization that is helping the families of active-duty military personnel in my congressional district. Millions of Americans perform acts of kindness and compassion every day by helping their neighbors or by working through the many volunteer organizations that make our country great.

One such organization, Operation Brave Kids, is a Tampa Bay area charitable organization that provides financial assistance to the families of active-duty military personnel. The group provides resources that can make the difference between obtaining the necessities of daily life or going without. John Ghee, the founder of Operation Brave Kids, summarized the group's mission by stating that "we want the family and the soldier to know that the community is behind them."

Mr. Speaker, these troubled times require each of us to contribute in our own way to the cause of freedom and the care of our countrymen. I am proud to say that the spirit of caring and volunteerism is flourishing today in the land of liberty.

May God protect our troops and continue to watch over the United States of America.

CONCERNING TREATMENT OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES HELD AS PRISONER OF WAR BY IRAQI AUTHORITIES

SPEECH OF

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 118 concerning the treatment of members of the Armed Forces held as prisoners of war by Iraqi authorities.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today with a heavy heart. For the past two days, we've watched emotionally stirring television footage of POW's who are being detained by Iraqi forces. These soldiers were on missions to defend and protect Americans from the evils of weapons of mass destruction when they were captured. I am saddened when I see these soldiers being detained, but I am confident that their extensive training has given them the strength and courage of conviction to prevail even at the hands of an evil regime.

While we do not know when our POW's will return home, I do know that we as Members of Congress expect the Iraqi regime to treat all POW's humanely and in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Geneva Convention. Those who violate this doctrine, and use force or other methods of inhumane treatment will be held accountable for their actions, and will be subject to prosecution to the fullest extent of the law. Brave soldiers, who give so much for our country, deserve no less.

My deepest and heartfelt sympathy goes out to the families of all of the POW's. We can only begin to imagine the pain and concern that the families of POW's must feel knowing that they are in the hands of the enemy halfway around the world.

It is our hope and prayer that American and coalition forces will be protected throughout this struggle as well as the Iraqi people.

These POW's and their families are making a tremendous sacrifice for our country—our country that soldiers are so proud to serve. Our country—where families await the safe and speedy return of loved ones.

My thoughts and prayers go out to all of our servicemen and women and to their families, who wish them a speedy and safe return.

ON THE DEATH OF SENATOR DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today we mourn the passing of a great American.

For decades, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan was a central figure in the nation's political and intellectual life. He was a committed, determined, and diligent leader who represented the citizens of New York in the U.S. Senate for four terms. We came to know him

as a uniquely independent thinker and great friend to both political parties.

Those of us from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area will always note the critical role Senator Moynihan played in revitalizing Pennsylvania Avenue, the grand route between the Capitol and the White House that was in disrepair when he first arrived here during the Kennedy Administration. He recognized the benefits in revitalizing the avenue and invested his skills to make this vision come alive. The Pennsylvania Avenue effort was one of the most successful redevelopment projects in the nation. Throughout his Senate career he was an authoritative collaborator in shaping this historic project.

The revitalization of Pennsylvania Avenue attracted projects to the city that might not have come otherwise. Subsequently, this project was used as a model for other redevelopment projects in the city, such as the MCI Center and the Washington Convention Center. Not only has the District benefited, but so has the entire country. Thousands of visitors can come each year to visit the Nation's Capitol and be proud to stand on "America's Main Street" as it was intended to be. Daniel Patrick Moynihan's fingerprints will forever be on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Mr. Speaker, today I want to express my gratitude for Senator Moynihan's pioneering work and salute him as a scholar, leader, and gentleman. He will be sorely missed.

TRIBUTE TO LUTHER ELDRIDGE
"IKEY" MILLER

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of the House the passing of Luther Eldridge "Ikey" Miller. I had the pleasure of working with Mr. Miller during his service as the clerk of the Page County Circuit Court and chairman of the Page County Republican Party when Page County was a part of Virginia's 10th District between 1992 and 2002.

Mr. Miller, age 71, died at his Rileyville home March 17 after suffering a heart attack. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 19, at Bradley Funeral Home, and he was interred in Luray.

Many grieve the loss of this man who was known as fair, straight-talking, dedicated and driven by integrity. According to a longtime friend, "Ikey was looked at by other [party] chairmen in the area as a person with a lot of experience, who they could go to for advice."

"He was always that wise man that had advice. He'd already been through whatever was coming up," according to Brian Plum, the current Page County Republican chairman.

In addition to his court and political careers, Ikey Miller was a dedicated father and husband, a military veteran, a solid baseball player in his youth, a talented musician, an active civic leader, a member of the Masonic Lodge, and a successful farmer. He also loved to hunt for coon and squirrel.

It was an honor to have known and worked with Ikey Miller, who not only lived according to his beliefs, but he was driven by them to excel. My condolences go out to his family

and friends as they mourn the loss of such an exemplary public servant.

TRIBUTE TO COL. SANFORD "MAC"
McLAURIN

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend Col. Sanford "Mac" McLaurin for his valuable service to our nation. On Friday, April 18, 2003, a retirement ceremony in honor of Colonel McLaurin, Staff Director, Corporate Communications, Defense Logistics Agency, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, will be held in recognition of 21 years, 10 months, and 19 days of distinguished service in the United States Air Force.

Colonel McLaurin began his military career in 1977 as the Deputy Information Officer at Seymour Johnson AFB, North Carolina. From there, he went on to be the Radio and Television Station Manager at Galena, Alaska. He held several positions as Chief, Public Affairs and Chief, Plans before becoming the Deputy, Media Relations (SAF/PAM) and Chief of Press Desk in 1995. His last position before coming to DLA was Chief, Air Force News & Information (SAF/PAI), liaison for Air Force News Service, San Antonio, TX, where he supervised 168 employees.

Serving an illustrious and most impressive military career, Colonel McLaurin accomplished a great variety of tasks, to include working the evacuation of non-essential Americans in Sierra Leone, Africa, with Special Operation Forces in 1991; working the hostage release out of Lebanon in 1992 (including Terry Anderson); flying with the Presidential mission to Rwanda, Africa, for first water purification system in 1993; serving 3 months in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, as Chief of PA—Joint Task Force/Southwest Asia; launching the Air Force's first electronic official newspaper, U.S. Air Force Online News—March 1999; and was instrumental in developing U.S. Air Force Image Express—receiving video and imagery and supplying it to national media in real time.

After completing Student Air War College in 2000, Col. Mack joined DLA. The DLA 21 reorganization of the Agency brought together Public Affairs, Congressional Affairs, Visual Presentations, Visual Communications, Freedom of Information/Privacy Act, Corporate Promotions, and History—all under Corporate Communications and under the capable direction of Colonel McLaurin.

As Staff Director, Corporate Communications, Colonel McLaurin has numerous impressive accomplishments under his belt. He established the agency's first electronic official newspaper, DLA Today and Tomorrow. He also developed the Communications Plan and traveled to DLA activities around the globe to deliver a well-received Communications Road Show. He tackled the toughest media and congressional affairs issues and developed a "Hill Strategy" plan to aggressively pursue a better working relationship with congress.

In addition to a distinguished list of military courses completed, Colonel McLaurin has a Bachelor of Arts in Drama and a Master's in Psychology and Counseling from North Carolina Central University, as well as a Master's

in Strategic Studies—from Maxwell A.F.B. Married to Deborah, the McLaurins have two children: Justin, 15 and Maya, 8. I have enjoyed working with Mac the past few years and wish him all the best in his future endeavors. May God bless Col. McLaurin and his family.

SECURING BLESSINGS OF PROVIDENCE FOR PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND OUR ARMED FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 153 will undoubtedly pass this morning. Many members, having read the summary, are probably uneasy because the resolution asks Americans to pray on behalf of the American Armed Forces and people—not for the British soldiers dying in the desert, nor for the Iraqi mothers searching for their children in the flames, nor for the countless others who need the blessings of Providence. I know I feel uneasy about the narrowness of the resolution.

However, I want to urge my colleagues to read and take seriously the entire resolution. I especially urge them to read the section which says:

"Whereas through prayer, fasting, and self-reflection, we may better recognize our own faults and shortcomings and submit to the wisdom and love of God in order that we may have guidance and strength in those daily actions and decisions we must take;"

I urge my colleagues to take seriously the admonition to remember that we, as individuals and as a nation, have faults and shortcomings. We are not, as individuals or as a nation, lords of this earth. We must do our best with imperfect knowledge and imperfect wisdom, never assuming we act on God's behalf.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to recall I Corinthians, 13:11-12:

"For now we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know even as I am known."

INTRODUCING THE HOMELAND INFRASTRUCTURE POWER SECURITY AND ASSURANCE INCENTIVES ACT OF 2003

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing, along with Mr. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, the "Homeland Infrastructure Power Security and Assurance Act of 2003." This legislation will encourage the deployment and increased use of advanced technologies for the production of secure, reliable, efficient, and clean electric power needed to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and to protect our energy infrastructure from terrorist threats. In a radio address to the nation President Bush stated:

As our economy continues to grow, U.S. oil consumption is projected to increase by about one-third during the next 20 years. Our demand for electricity is expected to rise by 45 percent. America is already using more energy than our domestic resources can provide, and unless we act to increase our energy independence, our reliance on foreign sources of energy will only increase. (February 23, 2002 Radio Address to Nation)

Reducing dependence on foreign oil is a significant aspect of America's homeland security strategy, and this will require better utilization of our nation's domestic natural resource fuels. Another critical goal is to minimize risk of terrorist attacks on the nation's critical power supplies, especially at military installations and major financial centers. In my own congressional district, First National Bank has installed fuel cells in its new building in downtown Omaha that can each produce 200 kilowatts of electricity using natural gas. The electricity produced by these fuel cells powers the bank's data center in a secure and reliable manner. The ultra-clean power plant located securely inside the First National's Data Technology Center assures that the facility has less than one second of power downtime a year.

At another popular attraction in Omaha, the Henry Doorly Zoo, a fuel cell has been installed at the Lied Jungle that is a 200 kW unit that serves 50 percent of its power needs. It operates at a 75 percent capacity factor and generates more than 1.3 million kilowatt-hours annually.

This use of distributed stationary power generation is a prime example of what we can do to protect our critical infrastructure facilities like military installations, financial entities, utilities, first responder facilities like firehouses and police stations, and information technology systems from potential terrorist threats. Dispersed networks of decentralized, distributed generation power modules are less vulnerable to attack, and there is a wide range of advanced distributed technology options that can be deployed by U.S. electricity generators in order to fortify America's energy infrastructure.

Improving the reliability of our electric power infrastructure will also help our economy grow. It is estimated that power outages, brownouts, and other voltage disturbances cost U.S. industry up to \$150 billion per year. On the other hand, it is estimated that energy efficient and renewable energy markets account for a \$500 billion annual global market to U.S. companies and could lead to a net increase of 1.3 million jobs over the next 20 years. We need to use new, advanced turbines, fuel cells, and storage technologies to reduce these costly outages. We also need to export these technologies. This will improve both our energy security and our economic security.

My legislation is directed at promoting and encouraging faster deployment of advanced technologies, primarily to protect the homeland, but with the added environmental benefits that come from clean and efficient power equipment. The legislation empowers the Secretary of Energy to administer an Advanced Technology Incentives Program. In order to receive incentive payments eligible owners and operators must submit an application to the Secretary that documents the use of qualifying technologies that reduce system costs, and improve performance and reliability of advanced distributed power generation and energy storage systems. This is a voluntary, not a mandatory program.

The bill establishes two qualifying requirements for eligibility. First it must qualify as a "qualifying advanced technology facility." Facilities meeting this requirement are eligible for payments based on 1.8 cents per kilowatt-hour generated during a fiscal year. If an owner or operator provides power that qualifies as a "qualifying security and assurance power facility" a bonus of 0.7 cents per kilowatt-hour may be earned. The maximum number of kilowatt-hours a single owner or operator may accrue for each year is 10 million kilowatt-hours. There is authorized \$250 million for the first four years of the program and separate appropriations will be required.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is timely. America is engaged in a war with Iraq that may disrupt our access to world oil supplies. Weather in the United States this winter has been unusually cold—raising home heating fuel prices to millions of consumers. Recently, President Bush elevated the threat of terrorist acts to Level Orange—the second highest level. Our national critical infrastructure, including power plants, electric transmission lines, and the nation's information technology system, are all potential targets. Secure, protected, reliable power must be a priority of any homeland security measures undertaken by the new Department of Homeland Security.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I look forward to participating in the Committee's early consideration of this year's version of the "Securing America's Future Energy Act." I also urge my colleagues to consider including provisions that will encourage increased use of advanced technologies like fuel cells and other low emission, high efficiency energy technologies. These innovative advanced technologies must be a part of both our national energy and homeland security plans.

H.R. 1460—VETERANS
ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACT OF 2003

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 1460, the Veterans Entrepreneurship Act of 2003, a bill to help veterans create, manage, and grow their own small businesses. I am joined by Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. EVANS, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. BEAUPREZ, and Mr. MICHAUD as original cosponsors. We believe Congress should accord veterans a full opportunity to participate in the economic system that their military service has helped sustain. Veterans indeed represent a unique national resource and we need to harness their engaging abilities in our economy.

First, this measure would allow veterans to use VA education benefits to enroll in a non-degree, non-credit business course offered by a Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and the National Veterans Small Business Development Corporation. The Small Business Administration helps fund 1,000 SBDCs in the United States; Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa. SBDCs are operated in partnership with colleges and universities or governmental entities. We have drafted this section so that it

would improve access to pre-entrepreneurship training and skills building for veterans and certain others, as well. Disabled veterans, dependent spouses and children of certain disabled or deceased veterans, and members of the Guard and Reserve, also would be eligible.

Second, the bill would clarify that disabled veterans enrolled in school under a VA vocational rehabilitation program may establish self-employment in a small business enterprise as a vocational goal. The bill recognizes that self-employment is a legitimate rehabilitation goal. It intends to discontinue any current VA practices that could require a disabled veteran to establish that he or she is unable to be employed in another job before being permitted to benefit from the essential entrepreneurship services VA's vocational rehabilitation program currently furnishes. These services include necessary equipment, supplies, and other needs associated with starting a small business. We note VA still could establish certain controls, so that aspiring disabled veterans would have the best chance of succeeding as small business owners. This section of the bill is especially important for disabled veterans who desire to start and grow home-based small businesses.

Third, our bill would give federal agency contracting officers the discretionary authority to create sole source contracts for disabled veteran-owned businesses up to \$5 million for manufacturing awards and \$3 million for non-manufacturing awards. It also would furnish contracting officers discretionary authority to restrict certain contracts to disabled veteran-owned small businesses if at least two such concerns are qualified to bid on the contract. This section of the bill is designed simply to create a "level playing field" for those individuals who have been wounded or injured in defending our freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, the smaller business sector is our economy's job generator. Our former servicemembers indeed are engaging and resourceful individuals. Our bill simply gives them additional tools to realize the dream of entrepreneurship.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND APPRECIATION FOR THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES PARTICIPATING IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

SPEECH OF

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear that our young men and women, who are putting their lives on the line in Iraq, have my unequivocal support. I will do everything in my power as a member of Congress to see to it that they have everything they need to win this war and return home safe and sound to their families. We can only hope and pray that this war will end quickly, and a minimum number of American, British, and Iraqi civilian and military lives are lost, destroyed or maimed for the rest of their lives.

While the troops have 100 percent of my support, when appropriate, I will continue to articulate the grave concerns I have about the

policies that sent them there. That is why I cannot "express . . . unequivocal support and appreciation ... to the President ... for his firm leadership and decisive action in the conduct of military operations in Iraq as part of the ongoing Global War on Terrorism." There is no convincing evidence that Iraq was involved or connected to Osama bin Laden, Al Qaeda or the events of September 11, 2001—despite President Bush's many failed attempts to morph the two, in order to convince the American people that there is such a connection.

Most Americans think that when our young men and women are risking their lives on the battlefield that Democrats, Republicans and Independents in this House would come together in a non-partisan manner to support our troops—because everyone does support them. An appropriate resolution supporting our troops in the Senate passed earlier by a vote of 99–0. But the Republican extremists in the House have no shame and no limits. They will politicize the blood of our soldiers if they think they can gain a political advantage. They have never met an issue they were unwilling to "wedge." That's what Section 1 of this resolution is designed to do—create a wedge issue. I have no problem with Sections 2 and 3.

Many Democrats, myself included, separate support for the troops from support for the President's policy. But the Republicans deliberately joined the two so they could make it a political wedge issue. Therefore, if you vote "for" the resolution it appears that you support the President's policy. But if you vote "against" the resolution, the Republicans intend to paint you as against our troops and unpatriotic in future elections. In other words, the Republicans have deliberately tried to set a "Catch 22" trap. Thus, to avoid the "damned if you do and damned if you don't" wedge issue the Republicans created, I am voting "present" on an issue for only the second time since I came to Congress on December 12, 1995.

I do not support the President's policy in Iraq. Indeed, I filed a federal lawsuit to stop the President from going to war in Iraq without a declaration of war from Congress. I believe the President's actions in Iraq are unconstitutional and in violation of international law. Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution says Congress alone—not the President—has the power to declare war. The October resolution was not a declaration of war! Indeed, I believe that not just going to war without a declaration of war, but the attempt to cede such war-making powers to the President in the October Resolution was unconstitutional. And there is nothing in U.S., UN or other international law that justifies the unprecedented doctrine of preemption—preemptively attacking another sovereign country without first being attacked, or without presenting convincing evidence to the American people and the world that such a threat or attack is imminent.

Therefore, I am concerned about a UN-ignored, but U.S.-led preemptive policy that has weakened the United Nations, weakened the structures of "collective security," and weakened the rule of international law.

As the wealthiest and only superpower in the world, the U.S. has the most economic and military interests in the world. The United Nations, collective security, and the rule of international law have well-served those U.S. interests. Weakening any of them increases

the threat to U.S. interests at home and abroad.

So today, even as I give our young men and women in Iraq my unconditional support, I also renew my dedication to strengthening the United Nations, collective security, and the rule of international law. They help guarantee peace and security in the world and, when fully utilized, make it less likely that American service men and women may have to be sent to possibly make the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, due to family reasons, I missed the following rollcall votes:

Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass. Sponsor: Representative RON KIND; Motion agreed to: 411–13. To promote Department of the Interior efforts to provide a scientific basis for the management of sediment and nutrient loss in the Upper Mississippi River Basin, and for other purposes.

Mr. Speaker, due to family reasons, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 85, a motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 961, the Upper Mississippi River Basin Protection Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass. Sponsor: Representative CHRIS CANNON; Motion agreed to: 423–0. To revise the boundary of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in the States of Utah and Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, due to family reasons, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 84, a motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 788, the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area Boundary Revision Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

HONORING A GREAT HERO FOR IRAN'S FREEDOM, AND WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to use this opportunity to ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to observe a moment of silence for a great man who is no longer among us, Ebrahim Zakeri. The late Mr. Zakeri was a great champion of freedom that not only helped the Resistance Movement to establish freedom and democracy in Iran, but he also fought for human dignity, global peace, and security.

As the Chairman of the Security and Counter-terrorism Committee of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, Ebrahim Zakeri was truly a resistance hero and a symbol of devotion, struggle and selflessness for the cause of Iran's freedom, as well as global peace and security. His mother was also executed at the age of 70 after suffering extreme torture in Evin Prison.

My colleagues in the House remember, that last August, I circulated information about the

Iranian regime's nuclear program and the two new nuclear sites that Iran was using to threaten world peace and security. The information was made available by the committee that Ebrahim Zakeri chaired.

Ebrahim Zakeri was an assistant professor in the Department of Communications at Tehran University. He was imprisoned by the Shah from 1972 to 1975. About one year after his release from prison, he was rearrested and sentenced to life imprisonment. He was among the last group of prisoners to be freed by the people at the time of the Revolution in 1979. He was a candidate for parliamentary elections in Abadan after the revolution that overthrew the monarchy. Despite a strong propaganda campaign against the Mojahedin and ballot rigging, the regime was forced to announce that he received the second highest number of votes in the election.

He then served in different posts at the National Liberation Army of Iran (NLA). Ebrahim Zakeri was a member of the General Command of the NLA and became a member of the National Council of Resistance of Iran in November of 1992. In 1993, he was appointed Chairman of the Security and Counter-terrorism Committee of the NCRI. Since then, his committee has exposed many of the Intelligence Ministry's terrorist plots, as well as Tehran's efforts to obtain nuclear weapons.

In a word, his 31 years of struggle serve as a lesson and a guide for the young people of his country, and will always be honored by our nation and certainly by my colleagues in the U.S. Congress. I express my condolences to the Iranian people and to the Resistance's President-elect, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi.

INTRODUCING THE SECURING TRANSPORTATION ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR TOMORROW ACT

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced the "Securing Transportation Energy Efficiency for Tomorrow Act" (the STREET ACT). This bill recognizes the close connection between transportation policy and energy policy. In many respects, transportation policy is energy policy. Our transportation energy needs are increasing, but we have not done enough to be able to meet these needs with new technologies and alternative fuels. As a result, our dependence on foreign oil continues unabated.

Today, the transportation sector consumes a greater share of petroleum (66 percent) than it did in 1973 (50 percent). Each year for the past two decades, energy use in the transportation sector has increased by a rate of 1.5 percent. It is time, indeed it is long overdue, for the Federal Government to lead in the development and promotion of energy efficient technologies and alternative and renewable fuels.

As the Nation's largest energy consumer, the Federal Government is in a unique position to promote energy conservation and efficiency, particularly in the transportation sector and in the operation of Federal buildings. The STREET ACT ensures that the Government does just that. The bill authorizes more than

\$2 billion to promote greater energy efficiency and further the development and use of alternative and renewable fuels on our highways, railroads, airplanes, ships, and in our Federal buildings.

For example, the bill provides for the use of photovoltaic solar energy systems (photovoltaics) in our Federal buildings. Photovoltaics reduce the consumption of fossil fuels and offer distinct advantages over diesel generators and primary batteries. They are highly efficient and have no moving parts, so the need for maintenance is virtually non-existent. Over twenty-five Federal buildings throughout the country, from Boston, Massachusetts to San Francisco, California, already use photovoltaics to great effect. This bill seeks to fulfill the promise of the Million Solar Roofs Initiative of 1997 of having photovoltaic solar energy systems installed in 20,000 of our Federal buildings by 2010.

In addition, the bill authorizes the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to make grants for the development of brightfield sites. Brightfields are brownfield sites, i.e., abandoned or contaminated property sites, which are redeveloped using solar energy technologies. Brightfields are being successfully developed across the country. This bill allows the EDA to contribute to this development by providing assistance to economically distressed communities so that they can redevelop contaminated or abandoned property. Making these properties viable for commercial use can significantly improve the economic opportunities in the area where the brightfield site is located.

The bill also provides for the development and deployment of new technologies to create cleaner, more fuel-efficient engines for use in all modes of transportation including on rail, in water, and in the air. The bill authorizes the Department of Transportation to enter into public-private partnerships with universities and industry leaders to promote the development of cleaner, more fuel-efficient engines for our Nation's railroads, ships, and airplanes. These clean engines would help reduce ozone-forming emissions and would be especially significant in areas of nonattainment. Research on many of these projects has already begun, and this bill ensures that the Federal Government remains committed to the development and deployment of these promising new technologies.

To promote the use of cleaner energy on our Nation's highways, the bill establishes a grant program by which the Department of Transportation can make up to ten grants for the development and demonstration of fuel cell-powered buses. Heavy-duty vehicles, which include buses, account for only 6 percent of the total vehicle population, but generate 60 percent of nitrogen oxide emissions and over 80 percent of all particulate matter emissions. Fuel cell buses would reduce pollution on our roads through the use of a clean, environmentally-friendly energy source and would help reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Further, we are falling behind other Nations in the development of these technologies. While there are a few prototype buses currently being tested in this country, the European Union has stated its goal of deploying 30 buses for revenue use in ten European cities by the close of this year. We cannot cede another transportation technology to our foreign competitors. We should lead the

world in the research, development, and deployment of fuel cell bus technology.

In addition, the bill provides a \$75 transportation fringe benefit to employees who commute to work by bicycling, carpooling or car-sharing. Currently, employees who drive to work can receive a \$190 per month parking benefit and employees who use transit can receive up to \$100 per month. This bill represents a first step in extending those benefits to citizens who choose to promote energy conservation while commuting to and from their jobs.

Mr. Speaker, the war with Iraq has once again focused our attention on the need to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. It is time to make a real and lasting commitment to the development of these new technologies and the use of alternative and renewable fuel that can help make America more self-sufficient in meeting her energy needs. We have the means available; the place to begin is with the Federal government and with this bill.

A detailed summary of the bill's provisions is attached.

SECURING TRANSPORTATION ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR TOMORROW ACT OF 2003 (THE STREET ACT)

The Securing Transportation Energy Efficiency for Tomorrow Act (the STREET Act) recognizes the connection between energy policy and transportation policy and the importance of utilizing new technologies and alternative fuels to meet our transportation energy needs. The STREET Act promotes the Federal Government's leadership in the development and utilization of alternative and renewable fuels in the transportation sector and in the operation of Federal buildings. Our Nation's energy needs are increasing. Energy use in the transportation sector alone has increased by a rate of 1.5 percent each year for the past two decades. The vast majority of that energy (approximately 99 percent) comes from traditional fuels. Today, the transportation sector consumes a greater share of petroleum (66 percent) than it did in 1973 (50 percent).

As the Nation's largest energy consumer, the Federal Government is in a unique position to promote energy efficiency and the use of alternative and renewable fuels. The STREET Act authorizes more than \$2 billion in federal funds to promote greater energy efficiency in our transportation sector and our Federal buildings, and to further the development and use of alternative and renewable fuels in our highways, our railroads, our airplanes, our ships, and in our Federal buildings.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Photovoltaic Solar Energy Systems for Public Buildings. Amends the Public Buildings Act of 1959 to authorize the Administrator of General Services to establish a photovoltaic energy commercialization program for the procurement and installation of photovoltaic solar energy systems for electric production in new and existing public buildings. The purposes of this section include a reduction in fossil fuel consumption and attainment of the goal of installing 20,000 solar energy systems in federal public buildings set forth in the Federal Government's Million Solar Roof Initiative of 1997. The bill authorizes approximately \$1.3 billion over 5 years for this program.

Capitol Complex Energy Efficiency. Authorizes the Architect of the Capitol to conduct a study to evaluate the energy infrastructure of the Capitol complex to determine ways to in-

crease energy efficiency including the use of photovoltaic solar energy systems, district heating, and other unconventional and renewable energy resources. The bill authorizes such sums as may be necessary for this study.

Brightfields. Amends the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to carry out a demonstration grant program for the development of brightfield sites. Brightfield sites are defined as brownfield sites that are redeveloped using solar energy technologies. The bill authorizes \$200 million over 5 years for this grant program.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

Highway Fuel Conservation. Establishes a grant program through which the Secretary of Transportation may provide grants to States and local governments for projects designed to make operational improvements to reduce fuel consumption on Federal-aid highways and roads, including data collection and analysis for improved traffic signal timing, implementation of improved and coordinated traffic signals, and planning and implementation of freeway management systems. The bill authorizes \$200 million over 5 years for this grant program.

Fuel Cell Bus Technology. Amends Section 5308, Title 49 of the United States Code to allow the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to up to 10 recipients for the research and development of fuel cell bus technology. Preference is given to grant applicants who have an existing fuel cell bus technology program and have made investments in hydrogen fuel cell infrastructure. The bill authorizes \$300 million over 5 years for this grant program.

Conserve by Bicycling. Authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to establish a pilot program that would provide funding for up to 10 geographically dispersed projects to encourage the use of bicycles in place of motor vehicles. The bill authorizes \$10 million for this program.

Energy Impacts. Requires that environmental impact statements prepared for Federal-aid highway and transit projects quantify and consider energy impacts as an environmental consequence of the project. Currently, Federal Highway Administration guidelines state that energy impacts should be considered as one of 25 environmental consequences in an EIS. However, the guidelines state that "except for large projects, a detailed energy analysis . . . is not needed." As a consequence, the energy impact of smaller-scale projects is often not quantified and not thoroughly considered. This section remedies that by requiring that all Federal-aid highway and transit projects quantify and consider energy impacts.

Extension of Transportation Fringe Benefits. Amends section 1320(f) of the Internal Revenue Code to include as a transportation fringe benefit that is excludable from an employee's gross income, a \$75 commuting allowance for employees who commute to work by bicycling, carpooling or car-sharing.

Railroad Efficiency. Authorizes the Secretary of Transportation, in conjunction with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to establish a public-private research partnership to develop and demonstrate locomotive technologies that increase fuel economy, reduce emissions, and lower costs. The bill authorizes \$105 million over 3 years for this program.

AVIATION

Clean Airport Bus Pilot Program. Directs the Secretary of Transportation to establish a pilot grants award program for the acquisition of buses powered by alternative fuels and low-sulfur diesel fuel at public airports through airport bus replacement and fleet expansion grants. Grants are to be used to purchase buses powered by alternative fuels and low-sulfur diesel fuel to be used as part of the airport fleet for a minimum of 5 years and, to the extent possible, grants are to be awarded to ensure a broad geographic distribution with no State receiving more than 10 percent of the available grant funding. The bill authorizes \$200 million over 5 years for this grant program.

Clean Aircraft Engines. Authorizes the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to establish a public-private research partnership with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, research universities, and members of the aero-propulsion industry to develop a clean ground demonstrator engine utilizing technologies developed by NASA and to focus on the development and certification of environmentally friendly manufacturing technologies, materials, and overhaul and repair. The bill authorizes such sums as may be necessary for the establishment of this public-private partnership.

WATER RESOURCES

Marine Efficiency. Authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to establish a public-private research partnership with the Federal Government, vessel operators, ports, terminal operators, shipyards, and equipment suppliers to develop and demonstrate technologies that increase fuel economy, reduce emissions, and lower costs of marine transportation and increase the efficiency of intermodal transfers. The bill authorizes such sums as may be necessary for the establishment of this public-private partnership.

Improving Hydropower Capabilities. Directs the Secretary of the Army to study the potential for reduced fossil fuel consumption through an increase in U.S. hydropower capabilities at dams owned or operated by the Corps of Engineers.

Encouragement of Prohibitions on Great Lakes Off-Shore Drilling. Contains a finding by Congress that environmental dangers associated with off-shore drilling in the Great Lakes for oil and gas outweigh the potential benefits of such drilling and encourages the Great Lake states to continue to prohibit off-shore drilling for oil and gas where such prohibitions already exist and to enact a prohibition of such drilling where one does not yet exist.

RECOGNITION OF THE OAK PARK
BUSINESS EDUCATION ALLIANCE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Oak Park Business and Education Alliance (OPBEA) at their Annual Community Awards Luncheon on Friday, March 28th at Glen Oaks Country Club in Farmington Hills.

The Oak Park Business and Education Alliance is a non-profit organization of educators, businesses and government entities. This or-

ganization marshalls important segments of the community to focus on increasing educational opportunities for Oak Park students. Since its inception in 1993, they have become an invaluable asset to the community.

On Friday, this fine organization will honor a community activist, Mike Tobin, and a community institution, Oakland Community College.

Mike Tobin, President of Mike Building Company of Farmington, learned his trade from his father who from the beginning concentrated on building homes that would open the residential market to more families. That practice continues today because Mr. Tobin's his first love is the single family affordable home. He shares the enjoyment of first-time buyers when they realize they have become "homeowners." Aside from his love of building, and his commitment to the future of the building industry and the workforce of tomorrow, Mr. Tobin is a recognized leader in the community and a devoted supporter of many charities and institutions, including the OPBEA.

Oakland Community College (OCC) established in 1964, began with 2 campuses and was proud of its initial enrollment of 3860 students. Today, they have grown to more than 27,000 students covering 5 campuses in Oakland County. OCC is an invaluable resource for the community, the region and the State as they provide a wide range of affordable services and educational opportunities to students of all ages. OCC is an active participant in the OPBEA Board as a connecting link between education and employment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mike Tobin, Oakland Community College and the Oak Park Business and Education Alliance and wish them success in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE AND JEANNE
BECKLEY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Steve and Jeanne Beckley of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. The Beckleys are dedicated members of the Glenwood Springs community, and it is my honor to pay tribute to their accomplishments before this body of Congress and this great nation.

Steve and Jeanne are the owners of Glenwood Caverns, a landmark tourist attraction in the Glenwood Springs area. Recently, they have expanded the caves into a year-round attraction, beginning construction of an aerial tramway to be completed this spring, which will allow visitors to access the site from Iron Mountain. Their contributions to tourism in Glenwood Springs will help to bring even more visitors to the area. For their efforts, the Beckleys were recognized as Glenwood Springs Chamber Resort Association's Citizens of the Year for 2002.

Mr. Speaker, it is with honor that I commend Steve and Jeanne Beckley before this body of Congress and this great nation for their efforts in the Glenwood Springs community. Their contributions have greatly benefited the people of Glenwood Springs and I am honored to

have this opportunity to represent such fine Coloradans. I wish both Steve and Jeanne the best of luck with all of their future endeavors.

FISCAL WINDS OF WAR

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues this March 27, 2003, editorial from the Omaha World Herald. The editorial rightly praises the other body for its vote to reduce the President's proposed tax cut in the budget resolution in the face of the cost of the war in Iraq.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, Mar. 27, 2003]

FISCAL WINDS OF WAR

Cutting taxes in an effort to reinvigorate a sputtery economy is an idea that has merit, and the Bush administration can be praised for pursuing the effort. But the U.S. Senate, in its surprise vote on Tuesday, got it right: \$726 billion was simply too much in the face of an open-ended and obviously costly war with Iraq.

The Senate, in a stance it reconfirmed yesterday, voted to reduce the tax cut (as part of a \$2.2 trillion budget) to \$350 billion, still a substantial tax reduction. Next comes the haggling between House and Senate, since the House-approved version would give President Bush the full \$726 billion cut he sought.

By the best available evidence, the administration lost track of its vote tally in the Senate. It asked for an initial \$75 billion for the war in Iraq, evidently confident that it would win both that and the full tax reduction. But the Senate, by a narrow margin, opted for prudence. The majority rightly saw the \$75 billion as a down payment—enough to sustain the effort for six months, with more bills to come later and yet more after that as the effort gets under way to reconstruct Iraq.

Bush's reluctance until this week to put even a tentative price tag on the Iraq war and aftermath has raised a question in our minds: Is the administration concerned that domestic support for the war will fade if the average American is asked to sacrifice something?

If so, we would hope to disabuse the White House of such a notion. Several recent polls suggest that 70 to 75 percent of Americans support this effort to dislodge the evils of Saddam Hussein. We believe that if it takes giving up (at least for now) part of a proposed tax cut to undergird the fight financially, most Americans are ready to do that.

We are reminded of World War II, when Americans willingly observed meatless days, endured gasoline rationing, drove on bald tires and so on to bolster the war effort. We have no reason to believe that today's citizens are made of less stern stuff.

Congress should unhesitatingly give the president the war funding he is asking for. His tax-cut plan can be revisited later. Meanwhile, as a people we're in this fight and had better pay for it. (Don't forget the hyperinflation that resulted from President Lyndon Johnson's insistence on conducting the Vietnam war on the cuff.)

Congress has a duty here, too. Whatever tax-cut figure it ends up with, it should make good on its word: Spend the difference on the war, and if there's any left, shore up the Social Security system. Any other use of the funds constitutes a breach of promise.

HONORING MR. FRED HILL UPON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN HALL OF FAME

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. Fred Hill, as he was recently inducted into the Plymouth, Michigan Hall of Fame.

His passion for Plymouth, Michigan has led him to serve as President of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, Plymouth Community United Way, Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth, and Plymouth Downtown Development Authority. Mr. Hill also served on numerous boards and committees including the City Charter Commission, Salvation Army Board, and the Plymouth Jaycees. He is also the founder and leader of the nationally known Fred Hill Briefcase Drill Team.

Mr. Hill is a tremendous ambassador for the Plymouth community, and we at home are indebted to, and grateful for his dedication, passion, and humor—if not his singing.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere appreciation to Mr. Fred Hill, as he is inducted into the Plymouth, Michigan Hall of Fame, for his fine service to our country.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1345, THE EQUITY FOR RESERVIST ACT (ERA)

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, recently I learned about an extraordinary individual, Mr. Gary Kibbee, a firefighter with the South San Francisco Fire Department and member of the Navy reserves. Firefighter Kibbee was activated shortly after September 11, 2001 and has remained deployed in an active duty role since then. He serves his country with honor and distinction, and I feel safe knowing that men like him are defending our nation.

I am deeply concerned, however, that while Firefighter Kibbee is concentrating on the extraordinarily difficult and dangerous mission he had been deployed to perform, he is also being forced to worry about the welfare of his wife and two children. For Firefighter Kibbee's family has to worry not only about whether he will return, but also about how they will make ends meet.

The Kibbee family is victim of a "pay gap" suffered by many of the over 200,000 Reservists and National Guardsmen currently activated. While he is activated, Firefighter Kibbee receives military pay that is significantly less than his civilian pay. This is a sacrifice he, his family, and his brothers and sisters serving in the Reserves and National Guard should not have to bear.

Thankfully, for the past year Firefighter Kibbee has been able to rely on the generosity of the City of South San Francisco to cover the discrepancy between his civilian and military salary. However, South City, like so many other cities and towns, is facing looming

deficits and is unable to continue to cover the difference in salary after 12 months, even for a two-time "Firefighter of the Year" award winner. Firefighter Kibbee was recently notified that his activation has been extended for another 12 months, taking his total time on active duty to the full two years.

Mr. Speaker, if Firefighter Kibbee's concern was unique it would be extremely unfortunate. However, the fact that there are many other brave men and women sharing his concerns is truly a tragedy. Too many members of our Reserve components are faced with the difficult choice of defending their country or providing for their family.

When a civilian is called up to active duty the Reservist's civilian salary is placed on hold and their paycheck now comes from the military. Often the amount of military pay is significantly less than the amount of their civilian salary. As a result of this discrepancy the families of reservists are asked to carry a double burden; a member of their family is temporarily absent—as is a portion of his or her salary.

In order to substantially reduce the discrepancy in pay between civilian and military salaries for Reservists and members of the National Guard who are involuntary activated for more than thirty days, I, along with five of my colleagues, have introduced H.R. 1345, "The Equity for Reservists Pay Act." I am pleased to report that this bi-partisan legislation also has the support of both the National Guard Association and the Reserve Officers Association. I request that copies of both are included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

While the problems caused by this discrepancy in salary has long been known, the recent shift in the frequency and length of activations has aggravated the salary discrepancy issue. During the Cold War era, the Reserve components were hardly utilized, and in fact between 1945 and 1989 Reservists were involuntarily activated by the federal government only four times, an average of less than once a decade. In the aftermath of the Cold War our nation has relied more heavily on the Reserve components, involuntarily activating Reservists units six times since 1990, an average of about once every two years.

Mr. Speaker, the mobilization of Reservists in the aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks has been the largest and longest since the 1990–91 Gulf War. Currently there are over 210,000 men and women Reservists on active federal duty. The average length of deployment since September 11th has been, for some, the longest continuous activation ever.

The brave men and women serving in America's Reserve and National Guard make tremendous sacrifices for their country. Some are called to make the ultimate sacrifice. One sacrifice they and their families should not have to make is worrying about their financial security. It is the duty of our government to ensure that the men and women of the military reserves are not financially burdened when they answer their call to duty.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that this bill does not provide extra compensation to members of the National Guard and Reserve components, but rather ensures that our Guardsmen continue to receive the amounts of their civilian salaries.

It is well known in the Department of Defense that the potential for income loss during activation is a major concern for both officers

and enlisted personnel in the Reserves. Given the Pentagon's increasing reliance on the Reserve Component, there exists a valid concern that the potential for financial losses would have a negative impact on recruiting and retention in the Reserves. Passage of H.R. 1345 would alleviate this concern and provides both for the financial security for our Reservists as well as security to our nation as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, this important legislation is designed to ensure that federal, state and local government employees and those employed in the private sector can continue to defend our country without being forced to worry about their families pinching pennies to adjust to a life on a reduced salary. The legislation covers members of the Reserves who are involuntarily called up for a period of longer than 30 days as defined in Section 101(19) of Title 37 United States Code.

The coverage of Federal employees uses a commonsense and cost neutral approach. The bill simply requires the employee's federal agency to pay the employee the difference between their military pay as defined by Section 101(21) of Title 37 (not including allowances) and their civilian base pay. Since Federal agencies and departments have already budgeted for their employees' salaries, there should not be additional expenditures required to cover any discrepancy the reservist employee suffers as a result of his or her involuntary call up.

In addition to the numerous Federal government employees that this bill would cover, I believe that Congress should also assist state and municipal governments in providing the difference in salary that their Reservist employees face. H.R. 1345 also provides assistance to the state and municipal governments who choose to provide financial equity to their employees by allowing the states to request a reimbursement of 50 percent of the expenditures required for the first 9 months. After 9 months, the participating state and municipal governments are eligible for a full 100 percent reimbursement.

In order to ensure that our government's generosity is not taken advantage of, I have included language into this legislation to prevent abuse. The anti-fraud provision of this bill, which is analogous to California law, requires municipal employees to return to their government jobs upon deactivation. An employee who accepts money to make up their salary discrepancy and doesn't return will have the received funds treated as a loan to be paid back in a manner to be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury. Additionally, the appropriate Secretary has the discretion to waive all or part of the loan should an appropriate situation arise.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, in order to provide the necessary incentive for non-government employers to make up the discrepancy in income that their brave employees encounter as a result of being involuntarily activated for more than 30 days, this legislation amends Subpart D of Part IV of subchapter A of Chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code, creating an "Active-duty Reserve Component Employee Credit." This credit should provide an incentive for private companies to continue to pay their employees. This credit will be equal to 50 percent of the compensation paid to the reservist employee to make up the difference between their private salary and reservist pay.

This legislation is a common sense solution to the unfortunate problem of financial insecurity suffered by the brave men and women of the Reserves. We cannot ask courageous men and women like Firefighter Kibbee to choose between supporting their families and defending our country. Since an extended activation results in financial loss for the Reservists and their families, it is only equitable that our government limits the financial loss as much as possible. H.R. 1345 is a fair and balanced approach to resolve this unacceptable and intolerable situation. I urge its expedited passage.

RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, March 19, 2003.

Hon. TOM LANTOS,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN LANTOS: On behalf of the nearly 80,000 members of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States, congressionally chartered to "support the development and execution of a military policy for the United States, that will provide adequate national security," I want to thank you for your efforts in introducing the Omnibus Equity for Reservists Pay Act of 2003. The bill is an important step forward in recognizing the contributions of the members of the Reserve components of our Armed Forces to the Total Force and our national defense.

Today as we wait anxiously for news of whether or when we will go to war with Iraq, more than 200,000 members of the Reserve components of our Armed Forces have been mobilized and/or deployed in anticipation of that event. Since September 11, 2001, a quarter-million citizen-soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen have been called to active duty and have left their homes, families, and communities in response to emerging contingencies. By the Department of Defense's own estimate, about one third of these activated reservists are losing money when their civilian paycheck is compared to their military salary (including the tax advantages of various benefits and allowances). Nearly seventy thousand troops is a hefty slice of Total Force assets going broke on active duty, going bankrupt before they even see the enemy they came to fight. The situation is bad and it can only get worse when you consider that Iraq will very likely take several years to be rebuilt, that the Reserve components will probably be supervising the project, and that if recent history is any guide, such occasions will continue.

The issue here is that if we are serious about the societal benefits of the Total Force policy and the popular support it brings to any military undertaking, we need to reinforce it in every way possible. We cannot allow the compensation aspects of the system to drift so far off center that fully a third of its Reserve component members become economically dysfunctional merely by putting on their uniforms. Bankruptcy is not an effective recruiting or retention tool. With all of the other more immediate (and less tractable) issues mobilized reservists must face, we should do all we can to eliminate or ameliorate financial insecurity caused by post-mobilization compensation dysfunction.

Your bill provides a range of solutions to the problem that has long plagued reservists and by extension the Total Force, and ultimately the nation. We are pleased at your vision in introducing it and we stand ready to assist in any way we can.

Sincerely,

JAYSON L. SPIEGEL,
Executive Director.

NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, March 19, 2003.

Hon. TOM LANTOS,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN LANTOS: On behalf of the men and women of the National Guard Association of the United States, I would like to commend you for your efforts in introducing the "Omnibus Equity for Reservists Pay Act of 2003."

Thousands of Guardsmen and women are currently being called to active duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism, defense of the homeland, and the pending war in Iraq, in addition to the multitude of other state and federal operational missions normally performed. Many Guardsmen and women are experiencing financial hardship when they serve their country for extended periods of time due to the difference of income between their civilian and military pay. Your legislation, the "Omnibus Equity for Reservists Pay Act of 2003" will help mitigate financial loss by making up the difference between a person's civilian and military salaries.

The employer credit will encourage private industry to compensate their National Guard employees. The high National Guard is drawing members of the National Guard away from their employers for up to two years at a time. This increased operational tempo places additional financial burdens on employers, to a much greater extent than in past years. Employers should not be expected to bear the increased financial burdens Guard deployments place on them. Assisting employers with tax credit provides the ability to inject those funds back into their businesses in order to offset the effects of the temporary loss of their National Guard employees.

As always, the NGAUS stands ready to assist you and looks forward to our continued relationship ensuring a strong and viable National Guard. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my staff or me.

Respectfully,

RICHARD C. ALEXANDER,
Major General (RET), AUS,
President.

THE WOMEN'S OBSTETRICIAN AND
GYNECOLOGIST MEDICAL AC-
CESS NOW ACT OF 2003 (THE
WOMAN ACT)

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I am reintroducing the Women's Obstetrician and Gynecologist Medical Access Now Act, the WOMAN Act. This bill will ensure that every woman has direct access to her ob-gyn.

I believe women should not need a permission slip to receive ob-gyn care. Unfortunately, that is the reality faced by many women when they need to see their doctor. Numerous managed care plans require women to visit their primary care physicians before seeking the health care services they need from the providers they want. Denying direct access, or forcing women to jump through numerous bureaucratic hoops to see their ob-gyn is not acceptable treatment.

The WOMAN Act recognizes that women have different medical needs than men and

that ob-gyns, in many cases, have the most appropriate medical background to address these needs. My legislation removes the barriers complicating women's access to their doctors. Women will no longer have to contend with the gatekeeper system that can prevent or delay appropriate care.

It is easy to understand what a difference direct ob-gyn access makes in women's health care. Imagine, for a moment, a woman in San Diego who works 45 hours a week and has limited sick and vacation time. Now, imagine she has an urgent medical problem requiring an ob-gyn visit. On Monday, she calls from work to make an appointment with her primary care physician. If she is lucky, she gets an appointment for the following morning. She takes time off Tuesday to go see her doctor. Her primary care doctor agrees she should be seen by her ob-gyn and gives her a referral. Tuesday afternoon she returns to work and calls her ob-gyn for an appointment. The doctor is in surgery on Wednesday, but they offer her an appointment on Friday morning. On Friday she takes another morning off from work and finally, after almost a week, gets the care she needs. The unnecessary referral process resulted in her taking an extra morning off work and delayed her proper medical care by 5 days. The patient, employer, primary care physician, and health plan provider would have saved money and time if the patient had been able to go directly to her ob-gyn.

An American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists/Princeton survey of ob-gyns showed that 60 percent of all ob-gyns in managed care reported that their patients are either limited or barred from seeing their ob-gyns without first getting permission from another physician. Nearly 75 percent also reported that their patients have to return to their primary care physician for permission before they can see their ob-gyn for necessary follow-up care. Equally astounding is that 28 percent of the ob-gyns surveyed reported that even pregnant women must first receive another physician's permission before seeing an ob-gyn.

The public overwhelmingly supports direct access to ob-gyn care. A survey conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard University found that 82 percent support direct access legislation and 63 percent would support it even if their health insurance costs increased. When asked about a range of health policy issues another Kaiser survey discovered that women rate direct access to ob-gyns as their second priority.

While serving in the California State Assembly, I heard from many women who experienced the same problems I have outlined today. After meeting with women, obstetricians and gynecologists, health plan representatives, and providers in the State of California, I wrote the state law allowing women direct access to their ob-gyn. That law was a good first step; however, it still does not cover the almost 5 million Californians enrolled in self-insured, federally regulated health plans. This means that if a woman lives in a state with direct access protections, like California, she may not be able to see her ob-gyn without a referral if she is covered by a federally regulated ERISA health plan. This also means that one in four insured families are not protected by state direct access to ob-gyn laws.

I believe the time has come to make direct access to an ob-gyn a national standard.

I urge you, Mr. Speaker, and all of my colleagues to pass this critical legislation quickly into law.

WOMEN'S OB/GYN MEDICAL ACCESS NOW ACT
(WOMAN ACT)

BILL SUMMARY

Grants Direct Access: Gives women direct access to an OB/GYN or a participating family practice physician or surgeon designated by the plan or issuer as providing OB/GYN services. Prohibits plans or issuers from requiring a referral or prior approval.

Plan Considerations: Plan can set reasonable communication requirements between OB/GYNs and primary care physician. Plan can set reasonable utilization protocols, as long as those protocols are the same for OB/GYNs as they are for other physicians, such as primary care providers. (cannot be more restrictive for OB/GYNs)

Nodification for ERISA plans: Requires group health plans to comply with the notice requirements for ERISA when they modify their plan to comply with the rule.

CHANGES TO TITLE IX ATHLETICS POLICIES CONTRADICT THE SPIRIT OF ATHLETIC QUALITY AND GENDER PARITY AND SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED, AND TITLE IX SHOULD BE KEPT INTACT

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, June 19, 2002 marked the 30th Anniversary of the passing of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. This legislation was introduced and tirelessly fought for by my late colleague and friend the Honorable Patsy Mink of Hawaii. Congresswoman Mink left a legacy for us to continue, one which demands our continued diligence in promoting and maintaining gender equality. Since its passing, Title IX has been crucial in setting a standard of equal education opportunities.

Today, and as a result of Title IX, the opportunities that women enjoy far surpass those of previous generations. These accomplishments are being threatened by current recommendations to implement changes to Title IX athletic policies that contradict the spirit of athletic equality and gender parity. We cannot allow this to happen.

Some argue that Title IX has accomplished all its goals and some even suggest that it has exceeded what it was set forth to accomplish. The reality Mr. Speaker, is that while great strides have been made to level the playing field for women in sports we have not achieved complete gender equity in athletics. Data from the NCAA 1999–2000 Gender Equity Report shows that female athletes in Division I schools receive only 41% of the opportunities to play intercollegiate sports, 43% of the total athletic scholarship dollars, 36% of the athletic operating budgets, and 32% of the dollars spent to recruit new athletes.

Additionally Mr. Speaker, Title IX does not deprive men of athletic resources, nor has men's participation in athletics suffered as a result of Title IX. In fact, by 2001 male participation in collegiate sports rose 22.6% from 1972. In 2000, for every dollar being spent on women's sport, Division I schools were spend-

ing almost two dollars on men's sports. In limited situations where men's athletic teams have been cut, it is often due to a lack of support for those teams combined with inflated budgets for football and men's basketball teams.

Given these realities, changes to Title IX would be premature and a set-back to the work we have accomplished over the last 30 years. The task laid at our feet by the Honorable Patsy Mink to fight for gender equality requires us to make sure that the advances women have made as a result of the implementation of Title IX do not overshadow the fact that our work is not complete. Therefore I urge my colleagues to support the intent of this resolution.

TITLE IX

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to voice my opposition to any efforts to change Title IX. For over 30 years, Title IX has been a successful program that has helped open doors for women in education and employment. I don't understand how people can argue with success and try to change such an important piece of legislation.

Times have changed in this nation for competitive sports, and it is all because of Title IX. Title IX has helped change assumptions and attitudes about sexual stereotypes. It is hard to comprehend that less than 30 years ago people believed women were physically incapable of running the marathon. It was believed that female body composition made it impossible for them to run long distances! It wasn't until women began defying this irrational and unfounded notion by competing anyway that the world took notice and a crippling stereotype died. It is a myth that women are not interested in sports or competition. It is a myth that women would rather be cheering on the sidelines than competing on the field, the court, the green, track, or the diamond. Any effort to repeal a program that allows access to sports and education for women reincarnates myths and stereotypes that should have been put to rest decades ago.

Title IX has helped knock down the senseless barriers that have prevented women from engaging in competition by requiring that equal funding be contributed to women's sports throughout all levels of education. Girls have an equal right with boys to receive at a minimum a basic education and to compete for scholarships—whether they are academic or athletic. Since 1972, the number of women playing collegiate sports has quadrupled! And the number of girls playing high school sports has increased to 3 million in the 30 years that Title IX has been on the books. Before Title IX was enacted, only 300,000 high school girls competed. The principle of equality requires that women be provided equal access and equal opportunity for education and sports.

My 16-year-old daughter Jennifer plays on her high school golf team. Before Title IX, a girl's golf team in most schools would never have existed. Before Title IX many women weren't even allowed to step foot on a green!

I want my daughter and the daughters of every family in the nation to have the right and the opportunity to compete and receive scholarships if their heart desires.

It is a myth that the requirements of Title IX take away funding for male sports teams! The overwhelming majority of funding available goes to support college football and college basketball. Furthermore, in 30 years we have seen the number of college baseball teams increase exponentially! If it were true that Title IX robs funding from male sports teams then why is it that for every dollar spent on women's collegiate sports, two dollars are spent for the male teams? We need to stop the myths about Title IX and allow the program to remain intact.

No longer do young girls need to hide their hair in a cap and pretend to be boys if they want to play ball. No longer do we harbor under the misconception that women can't and don't want to play. Title IX was a bold step toward equality and it was a necessary element toward achieving fairness. Sports teach us how to win with integrity and how to lose with grace. They teach us healthy competition and how to strategize for success. They help promote healthy exercise and lifestyles. Women need to be offered the opportunity to enrich their lives by playing sports. We need to keep Title IX in play.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID KEELEY

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Keeley for his tireless leadership over two decades in the field of coastal resource management and to congratulate him for receiving the 2003 Walter B. Jones Memorial Award for Coastal Steward of the Year.

For over 25 years, Mr. Keeley has worked at the local, state and regional level in environmental management, policy development and planning with an emphasis on coastal and estuarine issues. Over thirteen years ago, Mr. Keeley created the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, a voluntary regional governance structure that includes the states of Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts, and the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, as well as representatives from Canadian and U.S. federal agencies. The Council is an excellent example of a bilateral regional governance organization and is one of the best in North America. It is also a wonderful example of David's dedication and leadership. The success of the Council can be, in large part, directly attributed to the activism and involvement of Mr. Keeley, who nurtured, encouraged and challenged the group to succeed. Like so many other coastal issues and projects in which David becomes involved, the Council is where it is today because of his long-term guidance and support, and his unwavering ability to question, respond, and deliver. For all of his hard work and dedication, David was recently honored with the 2003 Walter B. Jones Memorial Award for Coastal Steward of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, Maine is honored, grateful and fortunate to have a devoted citizen like David Keeley. His tireless work to protect our coastal

resources has truly made a difference to the great state of Maine and to the entire nation.

TITLE IX

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I stand today on behalf of a great majority of Americans who support Title IX.

Thirty years ago, my friend, The Late Rep. Patsy Mink of Hawaii, the first woman of color to be elected in Congress, unremittably and dauntlessly challenged old stereotypes like a "woman's place being in the home."

Representative Mink was nationally recognized as a crusader for the rights of women, minorities and the poor. She co-authored the Women's Educational Equity Act, now known as Title IX, which prohibits gender discrimination by institutions receiving federal funding. Title IX is credited for helping push schools and universities to invest equally in women's athletics and educational programming. She envisioned the law to serve as a means to reduce and eventually eliminate gender discrimination.

USA Today, CNN and the Gallup Poll published on January 8, 2003, their survey results showing that 7 out of 10 adults familiar with Title IX think that the law should be strengthened or left alone.

Statistics will prove why our people support Title IX:

Women student athletes graduate at a significantly higher rate of 68% than women students in general who graduate at a rate of 59%.

80% of women identified as key leaders in Fortune 500 companies participated in sports as students.

82% of women business executives who played sports said that the lessons they learned on the playing field contributed to their success in business.

A Women's Sports Foundation study showed that teenage athletes are less likely to use marijuana, cocaine or other illicit drugs, less likely to be suicidal, less likely to smoke and are more likely to have a positive body image than female non-athletes.

Through the years, Title IX has diminished the inequity against women without depriving men of the same funds and opportunities.

In 2000, Division I educational institutions spent one dollar on women's sports for every two dollars spent on men's sports, and yet women increasingly continued to participate in sports activities.

From 1971–2001, women's college athletic participation increased by 403% and high school girls' athletic participation increased by a whopping 847%.

This proves that women's interest in sports follows opportunity.

Let us remember that the women of America comprise half of the population of this great country. We share the future with the men of America.

The landmark Title IX legislation is the last memory of how tenaciously Congresswoman Patsy Mink fought to improve the lives of girls for generations to come.

On behalf of many women and Asian American organizations, I submit my position on Title IX to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I support Title IX and all of its' opportunities for women and girls.

Protect Title IX and let it fulfill its mission.

HONORING BLACK WOMEN UNITED FOR ACTION (BWUFA)

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of BWUFA, Black Women United For Action. Over the course of their 17 year history, BWUFA has been an outspoken voice for the concerns of women, the impoverished, and vulnerable families throughout the world.

As a volunteer, non-profit community service organization based in Springfield, Virginia, BWUFA has continued to successfully provide a variety of community programs that offer support services with a social, cultural and educational focus. As BWUFA volunteers will attest, there is no price that can be placed on the gifts of love, compassion and caring from one person to another. This is the guiding philosophy that drives BWUFA to help make the world a better place for tomorrow's leaders. They consider it both a distinct pleasure and an obligation to touch the lives of others for the improvement of our community.

One of BWUFA's major efforts is to readily disseminate pertinent information to the public through forums such as their Roundtable Discussions. From talking about healthy living initiatives to the need for solid investment strategies, BWUFA provides these mediated conversations to encourage critical thinking on complex issues that affect us all. It is through this exchange of ideas in a relaxed setting that many can develop plans to radically alter their lives for the better.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have had the opportunity of working closely with this valuable organization in the past and look forward to continued interaction in the future. BWUFA sets the example as a model organization striving to improve the lives of others everyday. I salute their stewardship and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO JOHN ZIMMERMAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE LEGAL PROFESSION

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding gentleman, and good friend, from Ohio. John Zimmerman has always admired the practice of law and has always enjoyed doing it. After 52 years in the practice, he is as upbeat about his work today as the day he began. He opened his first office on April 15, 1951, on the second floor of the old Masterson's building. Mr. Zimmerman was elected shortly thereafter as Defiance City Attorney and served in that capacity from 1952–1955. Subsequent to his service as City Attor-

ney, John served as County Prosecutor, holding that position for 12 years.

Mr. Speaker, in all his years of practice, John never tried a single murder case until the last two years as Prosecutor, and then there were four. Mr. Zimmerman got a conviction on each one, he would tell you proudly.

Prior to doing battle in the local tribunal, John served in the 91st Infantry and received a battlefield commission and Bronze Star in Italy during WW II. While serving overseas, his father, Elmer, who worked as an agent for the IRS, received a transfer and moved the family from its home in Old Fort, Ohio to Defiance, Ohio. His mother, Effa, a music teacher, taught around the various schools in Defiance County.

Upon returning to the states in 1946, John came to Defiance in the spring of that year, enrolled in classes at Defiance College going straight through his undergraduate years without a break. It was about this same time that he helped to reorganize the local National Guard Company in Defiance. He finished his studies at the University of Toledo and earned his Juris Doctorate in 1951 from The Ohio State University School of Law.

John entered into a partnership with Defiance native, attorney, and artist, Ed Hummer in 1957. That same year they established a satellite office in Hicksville, Ohio. In 1963, John formed a law firm with Karl Weaner and Reeder Hutchinson. That office was located in the offices above the State Bank and Trust Co. until 1991, when the firm purchased the modern-looking, stone and cedar-sided building on the corner of Wayne and Third Streets. Mr. Zimmerman is one of the last remaining from the original firm that still exists today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Mr. John E. Zimmerman. Our communities are served well by having such honorable and giving citizens, like John, who care about their well being and stability. We wish John, his wife, Loisann, and their family all the best as we pay tribute to one of our state's finest citizens.

CONDEMNING THE ARRESTS OF OPPOSITION PARTY MEMBERS IN NORTHERN CYPRUS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker. I rise before you today to condemn the recent acts of the Turkish-Cypriot leadership. Only two weeks after denying their citizens the right to conduct a referendum vote on acceptance of the UN plan for reunification of the island, the illegitimate Turkish-Cypriot government has once again denied the will of its constituency.

In response to Rauf Denktash's refusal to allow a referendum vote, an opposition party in Northern Cyprus, the United Cyprus Party, planned to hold its own vote to explicitly demonstrate the desire of Turkish-Cypriots for a resolution to the Cyprus Question. Under the direction of Mr. Denktash, the Turkish-Cypriot police surrounded the village of Elia, and forcefully ensured that the vote could not take place. The General Secretary of the United Cyprus Party, Izzet Izcan, was arrested in the incident along with five trade unionists.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the Members of the House of Representatives join me in condemning these acts which took place at the hands of the illegal Turkish-Cypriot regime. Mr. Denktash has already harmed the people he is supposed to represent by denying them the opportunity to unite with their Greek-Cypriot neighbors and join the European Union in April, and it is absolutely detestable to see him silencing the will of his citizens once again. I urge my fellow colleagues to continue offering their support to the people of Cyprus, and request that the United Nations persevere in their efforts to bring about a fair and agreeable resolution to the longstanding division of the Republic of Cyprus.

THE REFERENDUM IN CHECHNYA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday, while the world's eyes were focused on the momentous events taking place in Iraq, a constitutional referendum was held in the war-torn region of Chechnya. The referendum was held as part of the Russian Government's attempt to "normalize" the situation in that tortured part of Russia's North Caucasus.

For the last ten years, Chechnya has been the scene of a bloody war between armed Chechen rebels and Russian military forces. Hostilities were precipitated in late 1994 when, in the wake of Chechnya's attempt to secede from the Russian Federation, Russian military forces launched a fullscale assault on the Chechen capital of Grozny. There was a respite in peace from 1996 until the summer of 1999, when the armed clashes erupted anew. The roots of this conflict go back to Tsarist conquests in the 19th century and Stalin's brutal deportation of the Chechen people to Central Asia during World War II. Unfortunately, certain radical Islamic militant elements linked to international terrorism have become involved on the Chechen side, though the State Department has stressed that not all Chechens are terrorists.

Despite Moscow's repeated claims that heavy-handed Russian tactics in Chechnya are part of the war against global terrorism, the situation is far more complex. Many Chechens have taken up arms against what they believe is a repressive colonial power and wish to see Chechnya as an independent state that will be able to make the critical choice regarding the future of its people. As is so frequently the case, the civilian population has suffered terribly from the war. While both sides are guilty of violations of international humanitarian law, the Russian military and special operations units have been responsible for numerous and well-documented instances of gratuitous, brutal and mass violence against the civilian population.

During my years in the leadership of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Commission has conducted eight hearings and briefings on Chechnya. Witnesses, including a nurse who was present in a Chechen town where some of the worst atrocities by Russian forces took place, have described the appalling fate of the civilian population.

According to the U.S. State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2001, "The indiscriminate use of force by government troops in the Chechen conflict resulted in widespread civilian casualties and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of persons, the majority of whom sought refuge in the neighbouring republic of Ingushetia. Attempts by government forces to regain control over Chechnya were accompanied by the indiscriminate use of air power and artillery. There were numerous reports of attacks by government forces on civilian targets, including the bombing of schools and residential areas." The report continues: "Command and control among military and special police units often appeared to be weak, and a climate of lawlessness, corruption, and impunity flourished, which fostered individual acts by government forces of violence and looting against civilians." Among the examples of such lawlessness and impunity in the Country Reports were ". . . reports of mass graves and 'dumping grounds' for victims allegedly executed by Russian forces in Chechnya" and "cleansing" operations directed against guerrillas but resulting in deaths and the disappearance of non-combatants.

The State Department points out that Chechen forces also committed serious abuses: "According to unconfirmed reports, rebels killed civilians who would not assist them, used civilians as human shields, forced civilians to build fortifications, and prevented refugees from fleeing Chechnya. In several cases, elderly Russian civilians were killed for no apparent reason other than their ethnicity."

Against this unsettling backdrop, with an estimated 100,000 internally displaced persons living in refugee camps in neighbouring Ingushetia, and under the guns of approximately 80,000 Russian soldiers in Chechnya, the Chechen people have reportedly voted overwhelmingly for the proposed new constitution. Nevertheless, it is difficult to believe that a genuine assessment of the public will would have been determined under such circumstances. I would ask the same question I asked in a Helsinki Commission press release over a month ago: "Are we supposed to believe that this referendum will stabilize Chechnya while armed conflict between the Russian military and Chechen fighters continue to produce death and destruction?"

The well-respected Russian human rights group, Memorial, has charged that Chechens were pressured to vote with the threat of losing their pensions or humanitarian aid. A joint assessment mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe stated that "no group has been able to campaign officially against the referendum in the mass media or distribute literature arguing against the referendum," although some opposition opinions were voiced in the media. Incidentally, in the concluding communique of the 1999 Istanbul OSCE Summit, the Russian Government agreed that all sides should seek a political solution to the conflict, and avail themselves of the assistance of the OSCE. This commitment was seriously undermined when the Russian government evicted the OSCE Assistance Mission to Chechnya at the end of last year.

Mr. Speaker, the Bush Administration has stated that ". . . we hope [the referendum] can be the basis for a political solution to that tragic conflict." I find that rather optimistic. The

Russian Government might better instruct its military to stop terrorizing the civilian population, prosecute human rights violators and rebuild Chechnya. Then perhaps it would not have to hold referenda in Chechnya under armed guard.

TRIBUTE TO VICKI DOUGLAS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of both a friend and constituent of mine, the Honorable Vicki Douglas. Tonight, Vicki Douglas is receiving the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Shenandoah Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, in Martinsburg, West Virginia for her years of continuous service to her community and state government.

Serving as my first committee chair in the West Virginia House of Delegates, Vicki was a colleague and a mentor. To this day, I value her leadership and tenacity and applaud her dedication. Throughout her career, Ms. Douglas has worked tirelessly to bring women's issues to the forefront and promote the well being of all West Virginians.

It is a great honor to commend Ms. Douglas on her service to the great state of West Virginia and recognize this extraordinary achievement.

TRIBUTE TO MEMBERS OF OUR ARMED FORCES SERVING OVERSEAS

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the members of our armed forces serving overseas, but I do not wish to use words of my own. I want to use those of my constituent, Miss Lisa Seviars. Miss Seviars is only ten years old, but her words are of an understanding far greater than her age. Miss Seviars wrote a poem which I would like to share with you now:

"THESE TROUBLED TIMES"

In this time of 2003, a troubled year ahead we see,

But lose no confidence for we are strong,
bounded by our
Nation's thoughts of liberty, justice and
freedom for all.

We are the ones who will stand tall,
When and if the economy falls.
We will not lose hope—we will hope even
more.

Stand at the thought we are free,
No matter what happens in other countries.
We will stand strong, we will not give in.
For the people of our land, we sent soldiers
out to fight.

So fearless, bold and courageous.
They are being sent to a new land,
Yet they show not signs of being afraid.
We will pray to God to keep them safe.
If he will, we will praise the Lord.
If they don't come back safe, most will say
"Why did you take my loved one away?"
The answer hides on a coin: "In God We
Trust"

Your answer is—we trust in God to keep them safe

For God is wise, and what you say is—
“The best way to die is dying free.”

I want to thank Miss Seviere for sending me her poem. I want to join with her and express my faith in our troops and my hope for their safe and speedy return.

HONORING MARY IMBRIACO

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Mary Imbriaco of Groton, Connecticut who is celebrating her 100th birthday on April 9, 2003.

Mary was born in Italy and traveled to the United States with her family at the age of 13. She grew up in the town of Groton and became a United States citizen in the 1930's.

Dedicated to her family and her community, Mary raised four children and worked almost her entire life, only retiring recently at the age of 85. Just 10 years ago she suffered a stroke. Her strong will and determination have helped her to triumph during this difficult time.

Today Mary resides in the same house that she has called her home since 1933. She has a passion for music and singing and brings many gifts to her community and her family. Mary's life is an inspiration to all who know her and I commend her on a lifetime of achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage the Members of the House of Representatives to join me in celebration of Mary Imbriaco's 100th birthday. She is a blessing to our community and to this country.

Tanti Auguri!

SECURING BLESSINGS OF PROVIDENCE FOR PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND OUR ARMED FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I hope and pray for the safe return of our troops, and I pray for peace. I know that many other Americans do as well. I do not believe, however, that it is the place of government to tell Americans how or when to pray. Matters of faith are deeply personal, and it is one of the founding principles of this government that the state should not intrude upon them.

IN HONOR OF HUGH AND MARTY DOWNEY AND THE PLACE OF HOPE

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hugh and Marty Downey of Ar-

vada, Colorado, who have dedicated their lives to over five hundred orphans in Matoso, Kenya.

Raising more than \$300,000 a year through private donations and small businesses, the Downeys are able to run a home and medical center for the children that is known as “the place of hope” or Lalmba to the people of Kenya.

Stationed with the U.S. Army as a communications specialist in Africa over forty years ago, Hugh Downey knew little of Africa and the role he would play with Kenya's children. Today, he and Marty spend six months out of the year raising 500 children in African grass huts and the other six months with their own grown children back in Colorado.

Home to 2.2 million out of 3 million AIDS victims, Africa has found itself in an epidemic affecting both children and adults. In Kenya, 190,000 deaths a year are caused by HIV/AIDS, so it is not surprising that the majority of the Downey's orphans were born to parents who died from AIDS. The rate of Kenyans contracting the AIDS virus has doubled in the past decade, and will continue to rise and affect children.

As AIDS continues to greatly affect the African economy and society, Marty and Hugh Downey have been called upon to educate and house an increasing number of orphans. Many African adults, because they suffer from AIDS, are unable to support their families—in fact, their children are forced to drop out of school and work to support their dying parents. As the cost for AIDS medication and school fees increase, most children have no choice but to begin working at a young age. By offering education and preventive AIDS medication for the children, the Downey's are giving these Kenyan children the chance at a future.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Marty and Hugh Downey for their dedication and commitment to bettering the future for over 500 African children with their creation of Lalmba and to wish them continued success with their chosen mission of mercy and hope.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN CARL D. PURSELL UPON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN HALL OF FAME

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing former Congressman Carl D. Pursell, who was recently inducted into the Plymouth, Michigan Hall of Fame.

Congressman Pursell's career in public service began as a member of the Wayne County Board of Commissioners. He was quickly elected to the Michigan State Senate, and subsequently to eight terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he held numerous leadership posts.

Congressman Pursell was a national figure in efforts to balance the budget. As Budget Task Force Chairman, he led the authorship of two federal budgets proposing no new taxes and no new spending. As the Ranking Republican on the Labor, Health and Human Serv-

ices, and the Education Appropriations Subcommittee, Congressman Pursell oversaw funding for all of the nation's job training, labor, health care, biomedical research, and education programs. Congressman Pursell also served on the Appropriations Committee, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, and the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee during his tenure.

Carl, who once graced this chamber with his intellect, wit, and kindness, has been, is now, and always will be a tremendous inspiration to our community back home, and to this Congressman in particular.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere appreciation to former Congressman Carl D. Pursell for his fine service to our country as he is inducted into the Plymouth, Michigan Hall of Fame.

CONCERNING TREATMENT OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES HELD AS PRISONER OF WAR BY IRAQI AUTHORITIES

SPEECH OF

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I urge all Americans to unite in support of our troops now engaged in battle in Iraq.

Our Commander and Chief, with the approval of Congress, called our armed forces into action to disarm a rogue regime that threatens our freedom and security.

With our troops now in the line of fire, with more than 28 Americans having made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom, the time for protest has past. The time for unity has arrived.

We live in a free society where we all share the right to debate the best policies for our nation. And in a free society, each of us also has the right to assemble and to protest. These are sacred rights.

But once our nation has decided to act through our democratic process, and once our troops have been sent into harm's way, the time for debate and protest is over.

Just as we share sacred rights, we also share sacred duties. Today, with American troops in the field, we all share a duty to unite behind them and ensure that our actions do them no harm.

But if just one floor speech by a member of Congress, just one acceptance speech by a Hollywood director, or just one street protest causes Saddam Hussein and his forces to hold on for even one day longer, then those responsible will have done a terrible disservice to those serving so bravely in our name.

I would never question any American's right to speak or protest, I only question the wisdom of doing so at this time.

No matter what political beliefs we hold, we are all Americans—and those soldiers in uniform fighting on the front lines are our brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, mothers and fathers.

Those who undertake further protests at this point only fuel the resolve of our enemy, and they must take full responsibility for their actions.

Perhaps some need to be reminded why we are fighting and what we are fighting against.

Americans were sent to disarm an evil regime that has stockpiled weapons of mass destruction that threaten the peace and security of the free world.

26,000 liters of anthrax. 38,000 liters of botulinum toxin. 500 tons of sarin, mustard gas, and VX nerve agents; enough chemical and biological weapons to kill millions of innocent people in a single act of terrorism.

I agree with President Bush, the risk of doing nothing is far greater than the risk of doing something.

Americans were also sent to Iraq to end a regime of terror. A regime that has used chemical weapons on its own population, a regime that has made rape and torture an instrument of public policy.

Just ask 68-year-old mother, Zahra Khafi, recently liberated by American forces, whose 28-year-old son was summarily executed two years ago by Saddam Hussein's regime for merely practicing his religion, a branch of Islam out of official favor. She greeted our troops saying, "peace be upon you, peace be upon you."

"Should I be afraid?" she said, wiping her eyes. "Is Saddam coming back?"

Ask All Khemy, who said after the 1st Marine Expeditionary Unit liberated his village, "Americans very good . . . Iraq wants to be free."

President Ronald Reagan once said "no weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women." The minions of tyranny and evil are learning that lesson today.

Our nation has met much greater challenges and we have faced darker days. During the Civil War when brother fought brother, President Abraham Lincoln solemnly stated, "I have often been driven to my knees with the overwhelming conviction I had no where else to go."

I believe now is a good time for all Americans to be driven to our knees and pray for a speedy victory . . . pray for our men and women in uniform, and pray for a peaceful world no longer threatened with weapons of mass destruction.

Our cause is just. Our victory is inevitable. Freedom will prevail. But we must all must unite behind our troops today.

CONCERNING TREATMENT OF
MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES
HELD AS PRISONER OF WAR BY
IRAQI AUTHORITIES

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, March 8th, citizens of the Santa Clarita Valley gathered at a busy intersection to show their support for our American troops and for President Bush. Over a period of several hours, hundreds of people of all ages participated. Carrying signs and waving flags, they elicited a steady chorus of honking and cheering from passing motorists.

Barbara Barrick, Elizabeth Makous, Stacy and Brad Meyer, Denise Grimes and Betty Lanning planned this wonderful display of patriotism with assistance from the Santa Clarita

Congress of Republicans, the Republican Women Federated, the Young Republicans and the Lincoln Club.

Judy Belty, a young soldier's mother, was so touched by the demonstration that she wrote the following letter to the editor of our local paper, *The Signal*. I share it with my colleagues in hopes they will find it as inspiring as I did.

EDITOR: As I was driving home today I saw about 100 people dressed in red, white and blue, waving flags, holding up signs and cheering in support of our president and troops. Most of the cars passed by honking their horns in support of the waving display. I wanted to stop right there, get out of my car and hug the first person I ran into. I wanted to say "thank you" for being a voice for my boy.

I am the mom of an Army 82nd Airborne medic soldier and my heart has been heavy with the rhetoric that has been voiced in the name of "peace." I think I can safely say that none of us wants war, not even President Bush. But it is no secret that our country's freedom has always had a cost.

Since 9-11, I have been asked often if I think we should go to war. I think most expect me to say no, because I am a soldier's mom. Well, as a mom, I don't want my son or any other young person to have to experience what may be ahead. As an American, I want to keep my right to speak my opinion, to practice my Christian faith, to display my country's flag, to make choices for my life that are usually politically incorrect," and even to write this letter. I want to be able to ride up an elevator and believe I am safe, to board a plane and reach my destination. More importantly, I want this freedom for our children.

I drove by the supporting display about three times, and each time I was stirred with emotion. I wished my son could see the support for what he is doing. When I hear others speak against the war, I wonder if they really remember the human lives stationed all over the world for them?

The military is not paradise. It's not all fun and games. My son has been to the Middle East and will probably be returning again within a few months. I have so much compassion in my heart for the moms of sons who were in combat, for the spouses of soldiers, and the children.

Do I want war? No, but I want peace and freedom. Do I want my son to go to war? Of course not, but I am extremely proud of him and his fellow comrades for valuing my life over their own.

So to those of you that stood out there, thank you. Thank you for helping people remember that regardless of whether you agree with war, there are real men and women, our troops, in need of our love, our support, our words of encouragement. Thank you and please, God in heaven, bless America.

HONORING PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of a great American, Phyllis Schlafly. Mrs. Schlafly was named one of the 100 most important women of the 20th century by the *Ladies' Home Journal*, and has been a national leader of the conservative movement since the publication of her bestselling 1964 book, *A Choice Not An Echo*.

Mrs. Schlafly has been a leader of the pro-family movement since 1972, when she started her national volunteer organization now called Eagle Forum. In a ten-year battle, she led the profamily movement to victory over the principal legislative goal of the radical feminists, called the Equal Rights Amendment. An articulate and successful opponent of the radical feminist movement, she appears in debate on college campuses more frequently than any other conservative.

Mrs. Schlafly's monthly newsletter called *The Phyllis Schlafly Report* is now in its 36th year. Her syndicated column appears in 100 newspapers, her radio commentaries are heard daily on 460 stations, and her radio talk show on education called "Phyllis Schlafly Live" is heard weekly on 45 stations. Both can be heard on the internet.

In addition, she is the author or editor of 21 books on subjects as varied as family (*The Power of the Positive Woman*) and feminism (*Feminist Fantasies*), nuclear strategy (*Strike From Space and Kissinger on the Couch*), education (*Child Abuse in the Classroom*), and child care (*Who Will Rock the Cradle?*). Her recent book, *Turbo Reader*, is a system to enable every parent to teach his child to read.

Mrs. Schlafly is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Washington University, received her J.D. from Washington University Law School, and received her Master's in Political Science from Harvard University. She is a lawyer who served on the Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution appointed by President Reagan, has testified before more than 50 Congressional and State Legislative committees on constitutional, national defense, and family issues.

The mother of six children and an Illinois Mother of the Year, Mrs. Schlafly is America's best-known advocate of the dignity and honor that we as a society owe to the role of fulltime homemaker.

Phyllis Schlafly was honored in 2002 by Focus on the Family as the Mother of the Profamily Movement, and in 2003) she was the honoree at dinners hosted by the Council for National Policy and the Conservative Political Action Committee. She has since 1972 traveled at least annually to Alabama to debate and speak eloquently on issues that affect the family.

The Alabama Policy Institute, Christian Coalition of Alabama, and the Southeast Law Institute have joined the Eagle Forum of Alabama to honor Mrs. Schlafly and express their admiration, appreciation, and affirmation of her exemplary service to God, family and country. As President Ronald Reagan said: "Our nation needs the kind of volunteer service you and Eagle Forum have demonstrated . . ." And as American Conservative Union Chairman David Keene said in a statement this year about Mrs. Schlafly: "If there are giants among us, you are certainly one. The movement of which we are all part would never have achieved the successes it has without you . . . you had the courage to be 'conservative before it was cool'. . . the fact that so many young people are attracted to our banner today is a tribute to your work."

I stand with these groups and individuals to honor Phyllis Schlafly for her service to our country and culture, and her commitment to conservative family values.

HONORING EDITH PALMER ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT FROM THE SPRINGVILLE LEAGUE FOR THE HANDICAPPED

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a remarkable and devoted individual. Tomorrow, Edith Palmer will be honored by her community on the occasion of her retirement from the Springville League for the Handicapped and Preschool Learning Center.

For 43 years, Edie has been the heart and soul of a facility that has given new hope to parents and new opportunities for the more than 160 preschool children who come through its doors each year. I know that not only because Edie lives in my hometown, but also because I am one of those parents.

In May, 1960, Edie answered a newspaper ad calling together parents of disabled children to meet and discuss the special educational needs of their children. These concerned parents first met under a tree on East Avenue, where they planted the seeds for what has become one of the premiere educational facilities for handicapped and learning disabled children in all of New York state.

Edie's devotion to the Springville League for the Handicapped began from her own experience as the parent of a hearing disabled son. Like other parents of handicapped children in the 1950's, Edie felt, as she said in her own words, "adrift on the ocean with no help on the horizon."

That first day, Edie volunteered to handle all the group's secretarial work, and later that year became Board Secretary for their volunteer board of directors—a post she would hold for 20 years. For its first dozen years, the League provided volunteer help for children, using donated space, volunteer staff and providing help to children at no cost to their parents.

Thanks, in part, to Edie's leadership, dedication and passion, the Springville League for the Handicapped and Preschool Center opened the doors of its own facility in 1987; and today employs 95 people, serving 160 disabled preschool children each year. Earlier this year, Edie Palmer was named the Springville Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year," an honor well deserved.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in saluting Edie Palmer for her 43 years of service to the Springville League for the Handicapped and Preschool Learning Center. As a parent, I can personally attest to the tremendous difference that she has made in the lives of children and families in Western New York, and I am proud and grateful to be able to call her my friend.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 95) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2004 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2003 and 2005 through 2013:

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the fiscal year 2004 budget resolution. I would like to thank the gentleman from Iowa for his hard work on the budget resolution. Over the last several days, I've met with House Leadership to voice my concerns with this resolution. Although this budget does not have everything in it I am requesting, it is showing considerable momentum in the right direction.

Most Americans agree that the federal government must tighten its fiscal belt. This budget controls federal spending, while also ensuring that priority items are adequately funded. This budget protects the Medicare program while also beginning the process of reforming the system. This budget also provides \$400 billion over ten years to provide a prescription drug benefit. I strongly support this funding, and I will continue to work for a Medicare prescription drug benefit for Pennsylvania's seniors.

This budget protects our veterans. Although earlier drafts of this resolution provided lower levels of veterans' funding than in the President's fiscal year 2004 Budget, I strongly advocated the need for higher levels in my discussions with Leadership and the Committee. This resolution matches the President's proposed 6.1 percent increase in veterans' discretionary spending over fiscal year 2003, and a 7.5 percent increase in mandatory outlays. I would like to thank the Chairman for his commitment to veterans, and for promising to support even higher levels of funding during conference negotiations.

I have met with numerous veterans in my district and across Pennsylvania. Let me reassure those who served our country that I will continue to support stronger funding for veterans, especially in the area of health benefits. More needs to be done. For example, wait times for veterans seeking medical care remain much too long. But this budget is not the end of the road on veterans' funding, and, as the only Pennsylvania Member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I will continue to work on this.

That Committee and several veterans' groups are working together to identify waste, fraud and abuse to ensure that the VA is using its resources efficiently. For example, the VA Inspector General has identified more than 5,500 cases of individuals who may be defrauding the VA by receiving benefits intended for veterans who have died. The VA has recovered \$4.7 million from these cases. We must also update and improve purchasing procedures such as for medical supplies and prescription drugs. Every dollar wasted, every

penny stolen through fraud or abuse is money robbed from veterans—and none of us will tolerate this.

I also support this budget's call to cut one cent on the dollar from other federal agencies by reducing fraud, waste, and abuse. I believe we can find these savings and, as a taxpayer, I believe we are obligated to try. We must ensure, down to the last penny, that every tax dollar is spent wisely and efficiently.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of protecting Medicare, providing funds for a Medicare prescription drug benefit, and increasing spending on veterans' health care needs.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1462, THE INTERNATIONAL DISABILITIES AND VICTIMS OF WARFARE AND CIVIL STRIFE ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2003

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 1462, the International Disabilities and Victims of Warfare and Civil Strife Assistance Act of 2003. Mr. Speaker, as we speak thousands of young men and women in our Armed Forces are beginning the long process of transforming Iraq and the entire Middle East by risking their lives in the desert plains before Baghdad. These brave members of our Armed Forces are facing many threats—threats from Iraqi's Fedayeen, who violate international humanitarian law by pretending to surrender and then attacking our troops, from weapons of mass destruction and from landmines. Mr. Speaker, I understand that already many of our casualties are related to these devices or have injuries similar to those inflicted by these weapons.

The bill I am introducing today is intended to help those who face identical injuries. The suffering of individuals with disabilities and the innocent victims of landmines, civil strife and warfare—men, women and children who often lead shattered lives—transcends any politics. An often-difficult life in the developing world is instantly made nearly impossible, for example, as a landmine indiscriminately transforms a productive member of a village, an irreplaceable provider for a family, a child hoping for a better life, a young woman looking forward to marriage and children, into a crippled, demoralized person who is often shunned as a liability by his or her society. Persons with disabilities—either from birth, accidents, civil strife or other means—are marginalized, often without any hope of leading useful and productive lives.

The United States provides some assistance for rehabilitation and societal reintegration of individuals suffering from disabilities and landmine victims, but so much more needs to be done; currently, only about 10 percent of U.S. assistance to address the landmine problem actually helps survivors.

The International Disabilities and Victims of Warfare and Civil Strife Assistance Act of 2003 grants the President new statutory authority to conduct international disability and landmine victim programs, primarily through private organizations; authorizes and coordinates related activities of appropriate U.S. agencies; and authorizes increased funding

levels for such programs. Let me make one additional point, Mr. Speaker, this bill is not about questions regarding the ban on landmines. It is simply a humanitarian measure designed to help the innocent men, women

and children who face disabilities throughout their lives.

I want to thank my cosponsor and cochairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, my good friend from Virginia, FRANK WOLF for making this bipartisan legislation, as

well as the Senate cosponsors, Senator SAM BROWNBACK and Senator HILLARY CLINTON, who have been leaders in this area.

I urge swift consideration and enactment of this legislation.