

much of his life and wealth to charitable causes in Tampa Bay and beyond. Ferman served the community in countless capacities including as a board member of the Port Authority, the Chamber of Commerce, the United Way and the University of Tampa, and as an active member of the Hyde Park United Methodist Church.

James Ferman Sr.'s contributions to making Tampa Bay a better place to live will never be forgotten and will continue to inspire generations of citizens to serve and lead their communities as he did. On behalf of all of us, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to his family.

PREVENTION OF PREDATORY
LENDING THROUGH EDUCATION
ACT

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to discuss legislation that I am introducing today that will coordinate government agencies and non profit organizations that provide education counseling to consumers who have been victims of predatory lending practices. This legislation is intended to improve consumer literacy, reduce harmful mortgage lending practices, and provide borrowers with a nationwide toll-free telephone number to receive complaints regarding predatory lenders and create a resource database of information.

While expanded access to credit from both prime and subprime lenders has contributed to the highest homeownership rates in the nation's history, there is growing evidence that some lenders are engaging in predatory lending practices—excessive front-end fees, single premium credit life insurance, and exorbitant prepayment penalties—that make homeownership much more costly for families that can least afford it. Predatory loans are said to have grown rapidly in minority neighborhoods, often stripping away wealth that may have been taken homeowners decades or a lifetime to accumulate. Some communities which lacked access to traditional institutions were being victimized by second mortgage lenders, home improvement contractors, and finance companies who peddled high interest rate home equity loans with high loan fees to cash-poor homeowners.

A joint report by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Treasury Department, issued June 21, 2000, Curbing Predatory Home Mortgage Lending, urged Congress to adopt legislation that would restrict abusive terms and conditions on high-cost loans, prohibit harmful sales practices in mortgage markets, improve consumer literacy and disclosures, and prohibit government-sponsored enterprises from purchasing loans with predatory features and establishing predatory lending as a factor in CRA evaluations.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation that will assist borrowers who already have predatory loans, educate consumers about the dangers and pitfalls of entering into a home loan, and refer consumers to appropriate governmental agencies or consumer protection organizations for assistance.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the legislation and my statement are printed into the RECORD.

HONORING FLANNERY DAVIS AND
GUS JOLLEY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Flannery Davis and Gus Jolley for their creativity in sharing their love of horses. Flannery and Gus run the Walk On Therapeutic Riding Center in Florence, Colorado and offer programs that give disabled people the opportunity to experience riding in Colorado's beautiful mountains. Today I want to honor their efforts before this body of Congress and this nation.

Gus began thinking about offering services for disabled riders when he was driving a shuttle van for the disabled as a part-time job in Santa Fe. Both he and Flannery spent two years volunteering with therapeutic riding centers and undergoing training as riding instructors before starting Walk On. Walk On Riding Center helps to make riding accessible to diverse groups of people by using adaptive teaching techniques and equipment to accommodate disabilities, both physical and mental. Their programs build independence, confidence, and self-esteem by introducing disabled citizens to the freedom and fun that riding can provide.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Flannery Davis and Gus Jolley for their outreach to the disabled in their community. On horseback and off, disabled riders can feel capable, empowered, independent, and healthy. Everyone deserves the opportunity to experience a slice of our western tradition, and I am proud to salute a program that expands access to one of the best recreational opportunities Colorado has to offer.

COMMEMORATING YOM HASHOAH

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, which memorializes the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis during World War II.

Each year this day is one of grief and hope. We mourn the innocent lives and vibrant communities destroyed while the world shamefully stood silent, and encourage the strides being taken to advance Holocaust education and the battle against resurgent anti-Semitism and intolerance around the world.

We observe the anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising, when a brave cadre of fighters battled a Nazi siege to liquidate the community's last remaining Jews, and resolve ourselves to provide comfort and support for the aging community of Holocaust survivors who continue to battle the horrors of their past.

This year, as we mark the 50th anniversary of the dedication of Yad Vashem in Israel and

the 10th anniversary of the founding of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, we have tremendous accomplishments to be proud of, but difficult challenges remain ahead.

In European and Arab countries, where the dramatic rise of anti-Semitic and Holocaust denial is fomenting attacks against Jews and exacerbating tensions in the Middle East, we must do more to counteract the steady stream of hatred.

In the United States and around the world, where elderly Holocaust survivors are struggling to find adequate health and home care to alleviate the traumatic scars of their experiences, communities must join together to find ways to meet these vital needs.

And in the vast settlements negotiated by the United States with European governments and corporations to atone for the crimes of slave labor and theft of assets, companies responsible for Holocaust-era insurance policies must be held accountable for their denials, delays, and stonewalling tactics against survivors and families seeking restitution.

The wrongful denial of claims in violation of the standards set by the International Commission on Holocaust-Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC) must be reviewed and overturned. Companies routinely extending the 90-day period allotted by ICHEIC to research the validity of claims into year-long sagas with no status updates to the claimant must be mandated to act more expeditiously. And most urgently, companies refusing to publish the basic policyholder information from their archives must be penalized for their inaction.

Survivors who are still alive were only children when the Holocaust began. While many have vivid recollections about insurance agents visiting their home or policies their family spoke of, few have documents to identify the right company and cannot do so because the companies haven't provided comprehensive lists for them to search for the names of their parents and relatives. As a result, more than 80 percent of the claims filed with ICHEIC are incomplete, and barely 2 percent of the over 88,000 claims submitted to ICHEIC have received offers.

Today I am encouraged that some progress is being made. This week, the German insurance industry agreed to publish the names on 363,232 policies issued by German companies to people identified on a comprehensive list of Jews who lived in Germany before the war. This is a vast improvement over the meager 308 policyholder names previously made available from Germany's largest insurer, Allianz.

More must be done, however, to get Generali, Axa, Winterthur, and Zurich to live up to their responsibilities as ICHEIC members. In November 2001, when I organized a hearing on the Government Reform Committee to shed light on these problems, Axa had provided 191 names to ICHEIC, Zurich had given 40 names and Winterthur just 31. Generali, a company that was the most popular pre-war insurer among Jews in Poland and Hungary, had released only 8,740 names out of the nearly 90,000 policies in effect when the war began. It is unacceptable and reprehensible that these companies have still not taken any steps to provide more information.

We must pressure these companies to do more. If they will not open their archives voluntarily, we must compel them to do so by