

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### INTRODUCTION OF THE OBESITY PREVENTION ACT

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, in my career as Governor and as a Member of Congress, I have been fortunate to spend time in schools all across the State of Delaware. During my visits, I have recognized a growing and frightening trend where more and more children are becoming obese. Health, nutrition, and physical exercise professionals indicate that childhood obesity has become a national problem which is reaching epidemic proportions. For that reason, I am introducing the Obesity Prevention Act which aims to curb the rise of obesity among our nation's children.

The statistics are alarming: According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) there are nearly twice as many overweight children and almost three times as many overweight adolescents as there were in 1980. Based on the agency's 1999–2000 data, the percentage of children who are overweight has nearly doubled (from 7 to 13 percent) in the past two decades, and the percentage of adolescents who are overweight has almost tripled (from 5 to 14 percent.)

Dr. Nancy Krebs, chairwoman of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Committee on Nutrition found that over 60 percent of overweight children between 5 and 10 years of age already have at least one factor for cardiovascular disease.

The Surgeon General indicates that overweight children and adolescents are more likely to become overweight or obese adults.

The Surgeon General's Call To Action To Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity 2001 found that overweight and obesity are increasing in both genders and among all population groups. In 1999, an estimated 61 percent of U.S. adults were overweight or obese.

A recent analysis, underwritten by the CDC, found that the treatment of illnesses related to obesity costs America \$93 billion a year, rivaling the financial toll of smoking-related disease. Health care for overweight and obese individuals costs an average of 37 percent more than for people of normal weight, adding an average of \$732 to the annual medical bills of every American. We know a lot of children who are overweight grow up to be overweight or obese adults, and thus a greater risk for some major health problems.

For the vast majority of individuals, overweight and obesity result from excess calorie consumption and/or inadequate physical activity. Thus, a healthy diet and regular physical activity, consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, should be promoted. Although obesity-associated problems occur most frequently in adults, important consequences of excess weight as well as antecedents of adult disease occur in overweight children and ado-

lescents. It seems to me that we should be finding ways to help our children be healthy and fit. The Obesity Prevention Act, which I am introducing today, encourages activities to educate our nation's children about nutrition and promote physical fitness. This is accomplished with:

**State Nutrition and Physical Fitness Projects**—This title amends the National School Lunch Act to provide 20 state demonstration programs for the creation of model nutrition education and fitness programs for students. States may use funds, after consulting with others in state government and industry who have an interest in obesity treatment and prevention, for a variety of purposes. Unlike other programs, which function as national activities of the CDC and USDA, these grant programs will give a few states the opportunity to think comprehensively about the problem of childhood obesity—not just from a health or food perspective.

**Local Nutrition and Physical Fitness Project**—This title creates a new pilot program for 100 school districts—at least one in each state—to promote healthy eating habits and increase physical fitness. Local Education Agencies may use funds, after consulting with individuals who represent public health, nutrition and fitness organizations, for a variety of purposes.

**State Children's Health Insurance Program Incentive**—This section creates an incentive for states that have, as part of their state health insurance plan, activities to treat or prevent childhood obesity. This is an effective way to intervene early with an at-risk population.

**Commission on Obesity Treatment and Prevention**—The Commission will facilitate coordination between federal agencies and identify ways to streamline the process through which federal departments can aid in the treatment and prevention of obesity. Members include representatives from US Health and Human Services, USDA, US Department of Education, Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services, CDC, the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, National Institute of Health, and Surgeon General as well as representatives from private sector nutrition and public health organizations and food, fitness, and other appropriate industries. In addition, they must consult with state and local government, educators and community based organizations. They will meet at least twice annually and prepare a report on actions taken to treat and prevent obesity and make recommendations for legislative and regulatory action.

**President's Health and Fitness Awards**—This is a new section to recognize schools for overall fitness and demonstrated improvements in student fitness and nutrition awareness. In this way, we're not simply awarding athletes who are already fit but rather schools and students that are making progress toward fitness and health. Also, it provides an award for teachers or coaches who create innovative and effective fitness and nutrition programs.

**Afterschool Programs**—Finally, the bill adds nutrition and health education programs to the

list of allowable activities for afterschool programs.

The time for action is now. We need to promote innovative ideas to help our children stay healthy and fit. Children are the future of America, and we must help to ensure they understand the importance of healthy living. I am confident that the Obesity Prevention Act is a positive first step to help reduce and prevent obesity among children, and I ask my colleagues to cosponsor.

### PAYING TRIBUTE TO BRADLEY RUSSELL

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand before you today to recognize an individual who exemplifies the spirit, determination, and resolve that constitutes the backbone of this great nation. Bradley Russell of Cortez, Colorado was involved in a severe automobile accident in July of 2001, forcing him to leave high school and engage in daily physical therapy. Bradley was diagnosed with a brain injury that has affected coordination, motor skills, strength, and endurance. Bradley's injuries were so severe that he was told he could never walk again. Bradley has been working diligently towards recovery with the goal of high school graduation firmly on his mind.

While Bradley knew his brain injury was serious, he set out from the beginning to accomplish his most important goal: walking across the stage at graduation. This goal caused him to work harder than he ever had before. Bradley was forced to overcome his lack of balance; his biggest fear was that he might fall. Bradley's doctors compared his rehabilitation with that of a newborn child; he was forced to learn numerous skills all over again. Bradley was lucky enough to have a caring support group helping him through his ordeal. He is also blessed with great parents who exemplify the compassion and love that wonderful parents across this nation show to their children. Tammy and Ron Russell lived outside of the hospital in a camper so that they could be by their son at all times. Tammy even quit her job so that she could be closer to her son.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly stand before this Congress today to express my respect and admiration for Bradley Russell. Bradley should be an example to us all, and I hope that his recovery continues to go well. Walking across the stage at graduation has become a reality for Bradley, an accomplishment of which he should be very proud. Today, May 22, 2003, the Seniors of Montezuma-Cortez High School are taking the next step in their lives; and Bradley Russell is right by their side.

● 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.

## TRIBUTE TO CHARLES HILGER

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles Hilger, a talented artist and dedicated historian, upon the occasion of his retirement as the Director of the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History (MAH). For twenty years, Mr. Hilger has dedicated his time and energy into building a museum that has become a significant cultural anchor for the Santa Cruz community as well as a quality destination for tourists and visitors. Mr. Hilger's expertise and enthusiasm will be missed by associates and visitors alike.

Mr. Hilger's participation in the art world has stretched to nearly all facets of the Santa Cruz community. Mr. Hilger's passion for art was evident when he was honored as the 1989 Santa Cruz "Artist of the Year." Over the past twenty years, Mr. Hilger transformed a small exhibit of art featured at the public library into the museum we enjoy today, now located at the McPherson Center. He personally recruited a highly professional staff and a dedicated team of docents and volunteers to aid him in managing over 150 installations, representing many diverse expressions of artists from around the world. Despite earthquakes, economic hardships and various other calamities, Mr. Hilger never lost sight of his goal to provide an institution that could educate many generations about the beauty and mystery in the world of art.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to honor the accomplishments of Charles Hilger and express sincere gratitude for his commitment to the community. I wish Mr. Hilger and his family well as he enjoys his much-deserved retirement.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE JUDICIAL USE OF DISCRETION TO GUARANTEE EQUITY IN SENTENCING ACT OF 2003

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Judicial Use of Discretion to Guarantee Equity in Sentencing Act of 2003" or "JUDGES Act," legislation that restores the independence and integrity of the federal judiciary by repealing many of the criminal sentencing provisions recently enacted in section 401 of the PROTECT Act of 2003. I am joined by Representatives BERMAN, DELAHUNT, WATT, WATERS, JACKSON-LEE, LINDA SANCHEZ, SANDERS, LEE, McDERMOTT, FILNER, MILLENDER-McDONALD, TUBBS JONES, and HONDA.

Section 401 of the PROTECT Act was passed into law despite the many concerns raised by several legal scholars and experts including, Chief Justice Rehnquist, the U.S. Judicial Conference, the American Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the Leadership Council on Civil Rights and various other law school professors and legal commentators. When asked to comment on the legislation, Chief Justice Rehnquist best de-

scribed the major problems with the controversial provisions when he wrote that the, "legislation, if enacted, would do serious harm to the basic structure of the sentencing guideline system and would seriously impair the ability of courts to impose just and responsible sentences."

The JUDGES Act of 2003 seeks to address these concerns by repealing most of the provisions of section 401, except those that specifically deal with the prevention of the exploitation of children. More specifically, the bill repeals the burdensome reporting requirements imposed on judges, restores the "due deference" standard of review, reforms the sentencing guidelines governing the acceptance of responsibility and repeals the changes that section 401 made to the composition of the sentencing commission. The bill also directs the Sentencing Commission to carefully study the issue of downward departures and report its findings to Congress within 180 days.

Judges should be free to impose fair and just sentences completely devoid of the political process. The JUDGES Act of 2003 helps to achieve this goal. I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

## TRIBUTE TO MR. JIM CULVER

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great man, Mr. Jim Culver. An involved constituent in my district, Mr. Culver will be recognized on June 1, 2003 by Saint Paul's Calvary United Church of God in Union, New Jersey with their Lifetime Achievement Award as Usher of the Year.

An active member of Saint Paul's Calvary United Church for the past thirty-five years, Mr. Culver has served as Secretary of the Usher board for the past thirty-one years. In this capacity he has been a great supporter of all activities of the church as well as lending a helping hand to the entire community of Union. A hard and reliable worker, he continues to give selflessly of himself to all of those whom he encounters.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me today in recognizing Mr. Jim Culver for his innumerable contributions to the town of Union as well as to his congregation. I wish to congratulate him as he is recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award as Usher of the Year and wish him the very best for the future.

## UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP AGAINST HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS, AND MALARIA ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2003*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1298, The United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and

Malaria Act of 2003. The statistics on AIDS are staggering. According to the United Nations, AIDS has killed over 20 million people since the epidemic began. Every day nearly 14,000 people become infected with HIV, primarily in the developing world and another 8,500 people die.

It's almost too much to comprehend, but we can respond. And we must. Experts say that a strong global response could prevent nearly two-thirds of the 45 million new infections that are projected by 2020, saving tens of millions of lives.

This legislation will strengthen our response to the global AIDS pandemic by improving coordination among relevant U.S. agencies, establishing additional accountability mechanisms, and fostering international cooperation through increased contributions to the multilateral Global Fund to Combat HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. The increased contribution of up to \$1 billion for the Global Fund in FY2004 is accompanied by a 33 percent cap on the U.S. contribution to challenge other donor countries to match our increased commitment.

The promises made in H.R. 1298, however, must be matched by real resources. Planning and coordination alone will not solve this monumental crisis. Prevention and treatment require money. This is a good first step, now we must appropriate the funds necessary to enact this plan and demonstrate the depth of our commitment to the world.

H.R. 1298 authorizes \$15 billion for our multilateral and bilateral efforts, including \$3 billion in FY2004. Unfortunately, the Bush budget provides only \$1.6 billion in FY2004, with only \$200 million going to the Global Fund. We must do better.

I also have deep reservations about the provision that gives abstinence programs a third of USAID's prevention funding. This crisis is too severe and our response is too critical to let our efforts be undermined by catering to ideological pressure.

The fight against AIDS is far from over, and this legislation provides an important opportunity to strengthen our commitment to a future where AIDS is no longer a threat. I urge my colleagues to support the motion to concur.

## HONORING THE CITY AND PEOPLE OF SUN PRAIRIE, WI

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the city and people of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, and their celebration of the life and work of one of the most important artists of the 20th Century, Georgia O'Keeffe.

Georgia O'Keeffe was born on a small dairy farm right outside the city of Sun Prairie—near Highway T and Town Hall Road—on November 15, 1887. She grew up on the farm together with her parents and six siblings. While growing up she received art lessons both at home and at school, and she was certain she wanted to be an artist by the age of nine. As Georgia's artistic ability grew, she began to receive more advanced training in art, and it eventually became an important part of her life.

Her work was first exhibited in 1916 at the avant-garde gallery, 291, of Alfred Stieglitz. Initially, the famous gallery included only ten of Georgia O'Keeffe's charcoal abstractions, but within a year the gallery stopped showing any other artists and was devoted to exhibiting all of O'Keeffe's works. Not long after Georgia O'Keeffe moved to New York, she and Alfred Stieglitz fell in love and then married in 1924.

Georgia O'Keeffe wanted her art to express as she said "the wideness and wonder of the world as I live in it." Today, everyone can instantly recognize the paintings with intensely colorful large-scale flowers, sun-bleached animal bones, and the dramatic landscapes of the Southwest as Sun Prairie's own Georgia O'Keeffe. She became the most famous American woman artist and an influential modernist, receiving many awards, including medals from two U.S. presidents and ten honorary doctorates.

As a historical marker is dedicated on the spot where Georgia O'Keeffe spent her formative years, I join Sun Prairie in its celebration of the life and contributions of the pioneering artist Georgia O'Keeffe.

#### INTRODUCTION OF READICALL NATIONAL EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a bill that will greatly improve the federal government's ability to communicate with our citizens when there is a terrorist attack or other serious emergency at the national, regional or local levels.

My bill will require the Department of Homeland Security to set up an emergency alert system which can contact virtually every telephone subscriber in the United States within minutes, to convey to them vital information about what's happening and what they should do.

Up until now, we have been somewhat less targeted in our approach to emergency warning systems, because we have relied on the mass media.

Until now, we have used 20th century technology—television, radio, cable TV—to communicate with our people in times of emergency. It works fine if you are near a TV. But if the electricity goes out, most TVs and radios don't work.

I don't want to eliminate the existing early warning system; I want to improve it and build on it.

What I propose to do is establish a national emergency communications system based on 19th century technology, the telephone, which virtually every American has nearby, both at home and at work, and which usually works even when the lights go out.

According to the Federal Communications Commission, roughly 104 million households out of 109 million have landline telephone service—over 95%. Another roughly 1.2 million have only wireless telephone services. Further, nearly every business in the United States has phone service and almost 141 million of us have cellular phones. There are few options for dissemination of information better

than our telephone system, which is widely considered the best in the entire world.

The system I am proposing would make it possible for the government to let people know of imminent threats, transmit official warnings, provide accurate information about an attack and also provide instructions to people in the affected areas.

The system I propose today has an additional advantage over the present emergency warning system, because it could be activated at the block, neighborhood, city, county, state or national levels, as needed.

I would envision perhaps a special ring on the phone, so people would know that an alert call is not an ordinary call. Cell phones could be included in the system.

The system would be activated by order of the Secretary of Homeland Security, so there would be accountability in its use.

And once a message is approved, it could go out in a very short period of time, by live operators or by taped message. Because the system I propose is based on technology and techniques that have already been perfected by the teleservices industry.

I want to harness this technology to improve our homeland security.

Emergency information is critical to all of us. When an emergency situation happens, you want to know who is in charge; who can, and will, give you accurate, reliable information; and what you should do, if anything, to protect yourself.

Officials from local, county, state, federal and volunteer agencies work together during emergency situations. That means information may be available from a number of sources—different people know about different parts of the response effort.

Protecting the health and safety of our fellow Americans is the primary goal of everyone working on the situation. Part of that effort focuses on giving you accurate, coordinated information about the emergency and what you should do to protect yourself.

The existing National Emergency Alert System was set up several decades ago to allow for public notification of emergency situations. The system was designed to provide immediate access to the public for the President in times of crisis. The U.S. leadership requires a reliable means for communicating with the American public on short notice during periods of national crisis or major emergency to provide reassurance and direction regarding response and recovery.

But the EAS system was developed to provide the ability to address the Nation on AM and FM radio, as well as television and cable television audio. In addition, the President or other official must be able to address the Nation on live television, audio and video, upon arrival at a designated television studio.

Today, emergency officials rely on mass media because they have the technology, communications equipment, trained staff, proven ability and commitment to get information to the public in an emergency. Indeed, television reaches 98% of the homes in the United States of America. But, that is part of the problem that this bill hopes to fix. Television reaches 98% of the HOMES in the U.S. If we were all sitting at home, with our televisions on, tuned to a channel with a direct link to the Department of Homeland Security, we could all feel secure that we would know what to do in the event of another horrible tragedy like the 9/11 attacks.

This bill seeks to develop and implement an emergency telephone alert system so that, in the event of a terrorist attack, all telephone subscribers within the affected areas or, if need be, within the entire United States, can receive from the Department of Homeland Security immediate official warnings, accurate information, notifications of an attack and instructions on what to do.

The technology currently exists that would allow the Department of Homeland Security to notify every telephone subscriber in the United States within a few hours or states, cities or communities within minutes, giving potentially life-saving information to our citizens.

The Secretary would collaborate with other government agencies and with the private sector to use existing telephone technology and infrastructure to relay official information to all telephone subscribers within an endangered area within the United States—ideally with a distinct ring so that the receiver of the call will instantly be aware of its nature and importance.

The aim of this legislation is to keep our citizens informed in the terrible event that there is a national, regional or local terrorist emergency and present sources of communication are not simply available. Minutes can make a huge difference in an attack or disaster; accurate information pin-pointed to the affected area can make all the difference.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHIEF LEN SMITH

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, at a time when crime concerns are on every citizen's mind, those who have dedicated their lives to law enforcement are to be commended. I would like to make a special commendation to Chief Len Smith, a devoted law enforcement officer from Indiana's First Congressional District. Chief Smith will be retiring on June 1, 2003, after having served the people of Porter for 34 years. Chief Smith will be honored by his family, friends, and members of the Porter Police Department at an open house on Sunday, May 25, 2003 at the Porter Community Building.

Len Smith, a native of Porter County and a resident of the Town of Porter for 42 years, has always been a man of compassion. He began his adult life by serving in the United States Army from 1966–1968. Upon his return to Northwest Indiana, Chief Smith thought that he would be a school teacher, having degrees in both biology and anthropology. He began police work because it afforded him the opportunity to work afternoons and midnights, allowing him to spend quality time with his family.

Smith's distinguished career in law enforcement has made his community and nation a better place in which to live and work. His outstanding motivational skills and unmatched charisma helped mold him into a natural leader. For more than 34 years, Len Smith has worked for the Porter Police Department and he has served as the town's police chief from 1974 to 1993 and from 1996 to the present. In 1993, when a former Town Council appointed a new chief from outside the town, over 200 people packed the Porter municipal building to

support Smith. The next Town Council immediately reinstated the popular Smith.

During his tenure with the Department, Chief Smith has demonstrated a sincere love for the community in which he lives. While on the force, Smith was presented with the American Legion Life Saving Award for saving two men from drowning. While Chief Smith has dedicated considerable time and energy to his work with the Porter Police Department and protecting the lives of others, he has never limited the time he gives to his most important interest, his family. He and his wife Diana have two children, Todd and Molly.

On this special day, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Chief Smith. His large circle of family and friends can be proud of the contributions this prominent individual has made to the law enforcement community and the First Congressional District. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Chief Smith for his lifetime of service and dedication to the people of Northwest Indiana and the citizens of the United States. He worked hard to make the Town of Porter a safer place in which to live and work. I sincerely wish him a long, happy, healthy, and productive retirement.

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TRIBUTE TO CAS CARES, INC.

**HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a company headquartered in my hometown of Huntsville, Alabama which is presenting a \$20,000 check to Huntsville's Community Free Clinic to help the Clinic sustain its free prescription drug program. This donation is not only significant because of the help it will provide Huntsville residents who cannot afford prescription drugs, but it also marks the \$1 million milestone for the company's charitable grants.

The employees of CAS and its leaders, Bill Stender and Fred Clark, are to be commended, Mr. Speaker, for this great accomplishment. In 1991, the CAS employees and management organized a non-profit entity called CAS Cares, Inc. in order to promote volunteer activities and provide funding to local charities in our North Alabama community as well as the Texas and Virginia communities that are home to CAS branch offices.

In the Huntsville community alone, CAS Cares has given grants to over 60 charitable agencies in the past twelve years. Over 85% of all CAS, Inc. employees donate to the CAS Cares program. In February, a committee of CAS employees reviewed the grant applications for 2003, which will result in over \$130,000 in assistance for charities this year alone.

Mr. Speaker, I believe CAS, Inc. serves as an example to businesses across the nation, and I am pleased that Huntsville is home to such an outstanding corporate citizen. I send my sincere congratulations to the management team and employees at CAS, Inc. for their \$1 million milestone today that continues to make a difference in the lives of many North Alabama residents.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN ANDREW D. LA MONT, USMC, WHO WAS KILLED IN ACTION IN IRAQ 19 MAY 2003

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to Captain Andrew D. La Mont, USMC, who was killed in action in Iraq, 19 May 2003. Captain La Mont, a 32-year-old resident of Humboldt County, California, answered his country's call and paid the ultimate price.

Captain La Mont served as a pilot with the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364, Marine Air Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. His CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter was on a resupply mission in central Iraq when it crashed into the Shatt Al Hallah River. All four crewmembers perished, as well as a Marine Sgt. who drowned trying to rescue the crewmembers.

Captain La Mont was born at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, DC, and moved to Humboldt County when he was 2 years old. He loved his country and chose to serve in the Marines Corps. He entered the Marines as an officer following graduation from San Diego State University, ROTC program. He served in Desert Storm and is a hero to his family and to the nation. He had a special influence on the life of his nephew, Sgt. Christopher La Mont, who is also serving in Iraq.

Captain La Mont is one of nine children born to Lt. Col. (Ret.) James and Mrs. Vivian La Mont. Lt. Col. James La Mont was a career officer in the United States Air Force.

Captain Andrew D. La Mont's tragic death reminds us that however just the cause, war brings tragedy to many families and that any casualty is one too many. He died serving the country he loved, with comrades he loved and with the love of his family in his heart. Our nation is humbled and grateful for his sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Captain Andrew D. La Mont, USMC, who gave his life in service to his country.

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HART-DOLE-INOUE FEDERAL CENTER

**HON. NICK SMITH**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the newly renamed Hart-Dole-INOUE Federal Center has long been a Battle Creek landmark. Under many names, from the Sanitarium to Percy Jones, to the Federal Center to the Hart-Dole-INOUE Federal Center, it will continue as a historic site serving the community and the nation.

Ever since its opening as a nationally renowned health center started by John Harvey Kellogg, brother of cereal pioneer W.K. Kellogg, the Hart-Dole-INOUE Federal Center has proudly served the State of Michigan and the United States. Purchased by the U.S. Army in 1942 the Sanitarium became the Percy Jones Army Hospital. The hospital, specializing in

neurosurgery and the fitting of artificial limbs, treated over 100,000 WWII and Korean war veterans. The many veterans served here include the late Senator Hart, Senator Bob Dole, and Senator INOUE.

Today, the Hart-Dole-INOUE Federal Center provides vital support to our nation's war fighters as part of the Department of Defense. The Center serves as the premier facility for the cataloging of 6.5 million supply items needed by the U.S. military as well as the re-utilization and disposition of those items upon their federal obsolescence.

As a nation we can be rightly proud of the work done here by the highly trained and award-winning workforce who serve within these historic walls. I am honored to have such a facility in my district and look forward to another 100 years of history being made.

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“CODE ADAM” CHILD SAFETY PROGRAM

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as the father of three young children, I know the feeling of horror that a parent can face when you are out shopping with your kids and you turn around, only to realize your child has disappeared. In most cases, you find them in a matter of moments. They could have been distracted and wandered off or even may have been hiding in the racks of clothing.

However, what if the unthinkable happens? What if they can't find them? What option does a parent have?

Code Adam is a special alert issued through a store's public address system when a customer reports a missing child. Code Adam, which was created by Wal-Mart, is a special alert issued through a store's public address system when a customer reports a missing child. A brief description of the child is obtained and provided to all designated employees who immediately stop their normal work to search for the child, and monitor all exits to help prevent the child from leaving the store. If the child is not found within 10 minutes of initiating a storewide search, or if the child is seen accompanied by someone other than a parent or guardian, store personnel contact the local police department and request assistance.

The Code Adam measure was established by Wal-Mart and Sam's Clubs and named in memory of six-year-old Adam Walsh, whose abduction from a Hollywood, Florida shopping mall and murder in 1981 brought the horror of child abduction to national attention. Since the program went nationwide in 1994, it has been a powerful preventative tool against child abductions and lost children in more than 40,000 stores and public buildings making it the largest child safety program in the nation.

Over the past year, child abduction has once again been brought to the forefront of public attention. It is critical that retailers and parents alike remain engaged and committed to protecting our children.

I am encouraged by new survey results released this week by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and ADVO, Inc., which showed more parents are

reviewing safety precautions with their children and have developed a plan of action with their children should they be abducted.

Parents are responding proactively to the increased media attention and are taking the necessary steps to help keep their children safe. It is my hope that the Code Adam resolution will encourage our nation's retailers to follow suit. There is no reason why every large retail store should not be implementing this program.

That is why today I am introducing a resolution that commends those retail and public establishments that have instituted the Code Adam program and encourages all retailers across the nation to do the same. Companies like Wal-Mart, KMART, Gap and Marshall's should be commended for implementing the program and training employees to follow the proven Code Adam formula.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join with me and cosponsor this resolution. I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the original cosponsors: Representatives LAMPSON, FOLEY, KAPTUR, MILLENDER-MCDONALD, BROWN of Florida, ACEVEDO-VILÁ, FROST, PAYNE, ROTHMAN, SCHIFF, WILSON of South Carolina, and WEXLER.

One of society's greatest responsibilities is to protect our children. We owe it to our kids to do everything we can to ensure their safety.

#### HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to state my support for H.R. 1904 The Healthy Forests Restoration Act. Unfortunately, due to matters in my district I was not able to participate in this vote.

As a co-sponsor of H.R. 1904 I support this legislation because of the relief it provides to combat the challenges facing our forest system today. From hazardous fuel reduction to insect and disease infestation research, this bill gives our forest managers and our private citizens the money and technical assistance they need to help bring our forests back to health.

I believe H.R. 1904 will work to help alleviate the fire hazards that currently plague our forests. Our nation's forest system is overwhelmed with excess brush and foliage which create dangerous conditions with the dry summer season just around the corner. This bill provides thinning programs for up to 20 million acres of at-risk federal lands near communities and their water supplies.

H.R. 1904 also provides money and technical assistance to stop the growing problem of insect and disease infestation. In South-eastern Michigan for example, Forest Service managers are battling the Emerald Ash Borer. This insect has decimated the population of ash trees located in a six county area. Luckily officials have responded quickly and we are in the process of containing that threat. H.R. 1904 will assist in our fight against invasive species like the Emerald Ash Borer and others around our country.

I am hopeful that the Senate will act quickly on this important legislation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Ms. LINDA SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday afternoon, May 21, 2003, I was not able to cast my vote on Roll Call Vote 204. That vote was on a motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1911, to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance cooperation and the sharing of resources between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted Aye.

#### VETERANS' MEMORIAL PRESERVA- TION AND RECOGNITION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 330, the Veterans' Memorial Preservation and Recognition Act of 2003. This bill incorporates many provisions of the Veterans' Memorials Protection Act, which I first introduced in the 104th Congress, and have fought to pass ever since.

Recently a memorial dedicated to the memory of soldiers killed in World War I was desecrated in Rockland County, New York, an area which I am proud to represent. Soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice have no ability to defend their honor against senseless desecration, so we must do it for them. That is why I am so pleased that this measure is before the House today for our consideration.

Recognition of our veterans is an integral part of our national heritage. While veterans may not have created our democracy, they have continuously defended it and renewed America's promise through their efforts. While our memorials and monuments to veterans may not be as imposing as the Lincoln Memorial or the Washington Monument, the dedication and protection we provide them should be no less zealous.

We live in a greater and safer nation because of the dedication and bravery of our veterans. We are indebted to our veterans, because we know that freedom is not free, and it is our veterans who have paid a severe price for the freedom we enjoy. The memorials created in this honor deserve the greatest protection we can afford them.

Protecting the memory of their sacrifice is one manner in which we can repay our veterans. It is both fitting and proper that we should pass this legislation before the Congress recesses for Memorial Day. As a new generation of veterans return from the Persian Gulf, I am hopeful that this is a first step in Congress toward fulfilling our promises and obligations to these heroes. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that these protections will soon be passed by the House, so that this grateful nation can further preserve the memory of those who preserved our nation.

#### PUBLIC EMPLOYER'S RESTITUTION ACT

**HON. STEVE BUYER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, as Representatives in the United States Congress, we are tasked with finding solutions to problems that face our constituents. Sometimes these problems take a series of phone calls to the appropriate agencies for action; sometimes the solution is more complicated and requires legislative action. This is one such problem.

Earlier this year, I learned that the town of Clermont, Indiana had been a victim of embezzlement. The former treasurer of the town embezzled over seventy thousand dollars. A small amount when this body deals in billions of dollars, but I assure you Mr. Speaker it is a significant sum of money to Clermont.

The town's treasurer was subsequently prosecuted, found guilty and charged with financial restitution to the Town in the amount of over fifty-one thousand dollars. As of the end of 2002, the Town received only five hundred and ten dollars in restitution.

The former employee has a private pension as his only source of income. He has no incentive to find work, as any wages would be garnished. Under ERISA, civil judgment for restitution cannot be attached to the pension. So, Clermont loses out on fifty thousand dollars and the guilty avoids complying with the judgment.

The legislation I am offering, the "Public Employer's Restitution Act of 2003" is a narrowly tailored bill that would allow States and local governments to obtain restitution for the embezzlement of State and local funds.

Mr. Speaker, while we cannot make Clermont whole again, this legislation will prevent other small towns and communities across the countries from being a victim of a circumvention of the law.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHARLES R. BRANSON, RECIPIENT OF THE SHEPHERD COLLEGE PRESI- DENT'S AWARD FOR A LIFETIME OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Charles R. Branson, who on May 6th was the recipient of the 2003 Shepherd College President's Award for a Lifetime of Community Service.

Mr. Branson attended Shadyside Elementary School in Shepherdstown's West End. In 1937, he took the state proficiency exam for 8th graders (he was in the 7th grade at the time), passed with the highest score and was named the valedictorian of his class despite having started elementary school two years later than his peers because of an injury to his legs.

The only black high school in Jefferson County was at Storer College in Harpers Ferry, W.Va. Mr. Branson enrolled at Storer, and his family struggled to pay the \$16 a

month board. His mother's untimely death, when Mr. Branson was a junior, put a financial strain on the family and he could no longer afford to stay on campus. He got a job at a tourist home that paid \$2 a month and provided him lodging in the basement furnace room, which was permeated with coal dust.

Despite these unpleasant conditions, he had the determination to continue his education. Mr. Branson graduated from Storer College's High School program in 1941 and returned to Shepherdstown. The quest for a job took him to New York City and Connecticut but he eventually returned to Shepherdstown where he briefly worked at Shepherd College.

In 1942, he married Ruby Washington and shortly thereafter was inducted into the U.S. Army and stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. He was an assistant gunner in the 827th Tank Destroyer Battalion, Company, C, Third Platoon. After training in North Africa, Mr. Branson was sent to Europe. He landed in Marseilles. He and his battalion took part in the invasion and liberation of Southern France. Within the next few days, they moved north towards the battle front. Despite waist deep snow, they finally reached Strasbourg and headed toward Luxembourg. From December to January he fought in the Battle of the Bulge, the last great effort of the Nazi war machine to avoid defeat. After a month of fighting on the ground, the air support arrived and the tide began to turn in favor of the allied forces.

After fighting in the European theater for several months, Mr. Branson found himself on a ship headed for the Pacific theater to join that fight. However, while on route, to Japan, a voice on the ship's loudspeaker announced the end of the war. The ship returned to the United States. Mr. Branson was honorably discharged from the Army on October 3, 1945.

Upon returning to Shepherdstown, he and his wife purchased the home in which they still live. After working for a year in local orchards and at the local Army hospital, he was persuaded by his wife to attend college. He graduated from Storer College with a bachelor's degree. He served as a teacher and football coach in the Luray, Virginia public schools until 1956, when he returned to Shepherdstown once again. He worked in the patient relations department of the local Veterans' Hospital until his retirement in 1985.

In addition to working and raising a family, Mr. Branson served on the Shepherdstown Town Council from 1974 to 2002. During his tenure on the council, he spearheaded the cleaning of Back Alley and the paving of streets in the predominantly African American East and West End communities within the town. He insured that the interests of the African American community were not forgotten in the deliberations and the decisions of the council and fought to preserve the small-town environment of Shepherdstown while assuring that all members of the community had access to basic services. Mr. Branson is a member of St. John the Baptist Church and is chairperson emeritus of St. John's Deacon Board.

Mr. Branson was given the President's Award in recognition of his service to the community. I want to recognize him because of the odds he overcame and his determination to make a difference for ordinary people.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE READY TO TEACH ACT OF 2003

**HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Ready to Teach Act, a bill I am cosponsoring along with Mr. GINGREY, to help improve the quality of our nation's teacher preparation programs.

There is widespread awareness that the subject matter knowledge and teaching skills of teachers play a central role in the success of elementary and secondary education reform. More than half of the 2.2 million teachers that America's schools will need to hire over the next 10 years will be first-time teachers, and they will need to be well-prepared for the challenges of today's classrooms. For these reasons, the nation's attention has increasingly focused on the role that institutions of higher education and States play in ensuring that new teachers have the content knowledge and teaching skills they need to ensure that all students are held to higher standards.

Accordingly, the Ready to Teach Act authorizes three types of teacher training grants that each play a unique, yet critical role in the education of tomorrow's teachers. State grant funds must be used to reform teacher preparation requirements and ensure that current and future teachers are highly qualified. Partnership grants allow effective partners to join together, combining strengths and resources to train highly qualified teachers and achieve success where it matters most—in the classroom. Teacher recruitment grants will help bring high quality individuals into teacher programs, and ultimately put more highly qualified teachers into classrooms. This legislation addresses key objectives to improve the quality of teacher preparation:

1. **Accountability:** While current higher education law contains some annual reporting requirements, these reporting measures have proven ineffective in measuring the true quality of teacher preparation programs. In fact, the current requirements have often been manipulated, leaving data skewed and often irrelevant. The Ready to Teach Act includes accountability provisions that will strengthen reporting measures and hold teacher preparation programs accountable for providing accurate and useful information.

2. **Flexibility:** The Ready to Teach Act recognizes that flexibility should exist in methods used for training highly qualified teachers, and for that reason, would allow funds to be used for innovative methods in teacher preparation programs, such as charter colleges of education, which can provide an alternative gateway for teachers to become highly qualified. Pioneering programs such as charter colleges of education would also implement systems to gauge a true measure of teacher effectiveness—the academic achievement of students.

3. **Effectiveness:** In addition to strengthening accountability measures, the Ready to Teach Act increases the effectiveness and quality in teacher training programs by including provisions to focus training on the skills and knowledge needed to prepare highly qualified teachers. The bill places a renewed emphasis on a broad range of skills required for effective teaching, such as the use of advanced tech-

nology in the classroom, rigorous academic content knowledge, scientifically based research, and challenging state student academic content standards.

Institutions of higher education have a great deal of responsibility in contributing to the preparation of our nation's teachers—this bill will make sure they're meeting their responsibilities. I commend Congressman GINGREY for introducing the Ready to Teach Act, I believe this bill will help to ensure that the best and the brightest teachers are teaching our children.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE READY TO TEACH ACT OF 2003

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Ready to Teach Act of 2003, introduced today by Representative Gingrey. The Ready to Teach Act is the first, in what will be a series of bills, the Committee on Education and the Workforce will consider in our continuing efforts to reauthorize the Higher Education Act.

The No Child Left Behind Act calls for a highly qualified teacher in every classroom by the end of the 2005–2006 school year, lending new urgency to the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act as we seek to ensure that teacher colleges are producing highly qualified graduates. Provisions in the Ready to Teach Act complement the No Child Left Behind Act and will help to improve the quality and accountability of teacher preparation programs to ensure that highly qualified teachers are teaching our children.

As we work to place highly qualified teachers in classrooms across the nation, I am particularly pleased that this legislation allows for innovative programs that provide alternative options to the traditional teacher training programs. Proposals outlined in the bill, such as charter colleges of education, provide a much-needed alternate route to training highly qualified and effective teachers. This bill takes the important step of recognizing that individuals seeking to enter the teaching profession often have varied backgrounds—and by creating flexible approaches that step outside the box, these individuals can become highly qualified teachers through training programs as unique as their individual experiences.

The key to producing highly qualified teachers is not the path by which they travel, but the destination they reach. Teachers trained through innovative options, or certified through alternate means, will still be held to the same standards of accountability and quality, but will not be constrained by artificial requirements that could place barriers between high quality individuals and the classrooms where they are desperately needed.

In addition to innovative options such as alternative training and certification options to prepare highly qualified teachers, the Ready to Teach Act makes several improvements to the programs responsible for training the teachers of tomorrow. The bill authorizes three types of grants, each with a specific and important role to play in the training of America's teachers.

State and partnership grants under the Act must be used to reform teacher preparation

requirements, coordinate with teacher activities under Title II of the No Child Left Behind Act, and ensure that current and future teachers are highly qualified. Authorized grant activities will place a renewed emphasis on the skills needed to meet the highly qualified standard: the use of advanced technology in the classroom, rigorous academic content knowledge, scientifically based research, and challenging state student academic content standards. In particular, states are authorized to use grant funds for innovative methods for teacher preparation programs, such as charter colleges of education, that exchange flexibility in meeting state requirements for institutional commitments to produce results-based outcomes for teacher education graduates—measured based on increased student academic achievement.

The Ready to Teach Act authorizes partnership grants to enable effective partners to join together, combining strengths and resources to train highly qualified teachers and achieve success in the classroom. These partnerships will require faculty of participating teacher preparation programs to serve with a highly qualified teacher in the classroom, allowing effective in-class experience to ensure that highly qualified teachers are truly prepared to teach.

Teacher recruitment grants under the Act will help bring high quality individuals into teacher preparation programs and gives a funding priority for applicants that will emphasize measures to recruit minorities into the teaching profession, providing a teaching workforce that is both highly qualified and diverse.

The Ready to Teach Act will also hold teacher preparation programs accountable for preparing highly qualified teachers. While current higher education law contains annual reporting requirements, these reporting measures have proven ineffective in measuring the true quality of teacher preparation programs. In fact, the current requirements have often been manipulated, leaving data skewed and often irrelevant. The Ready to Teach Act includes accountability provisions that will strengthen reporting measures and hold teacher preparation programs accountable for providing accurate and useful information.

This bill makes needed reforms to improve the quality and accountability of our nation's teacher preparation programs. I would like to commend Mr. Gingrey for his work on the Ready to Teach Act. I would also like to thank Mr. McKeon, Chairman of the Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness, for his continuing efforts to improve all aspects of our country's higher education system. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and believe that this legislation will enjoy broad support in the Congress.

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#### INTRODUCTION OF THE READY TO TEACH ACT OF 2003

**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Ready to Teach Act of 2003 to reauthorize teacher quality provisions under Title II of the Higher Education Act through fis-

cal year 2008. The first in what will be a series of bills to reauthorize the Higher Education Act, the Ready to Teach Act seeks to meet the call of the No Child Left Behind Act to place a highly qualified teacher in every classroom by making improvements that will help ensure teacher training programs are producing well-prepared teachers to meet the needs of America's students.

The caliber of teacher education programs at institutions of higher education has come under increased scrutiny over the past several years. Among other things, teacher preparation programs have been criticized for providing prospective teachers with inadequate time to learn subject matter; for teaching a superficial curriculum; and for being unduly fragmented, with courses not linked to practice teaching and with education faculty isolated from their arts and sciences faculty colleagues.

Accordingly, the Ready to Teach Act authorizes competitively awarded grants to: (1) increase student academic achievement; (2) improve the quality of the current and future teaching force by improving the preparation of prospective teachers and enhancing professional development activities; (3) hold institutions of higher education accountable for preparing highly qualified teachers; (4) and recruit highly qualified individuals, including minorities and individuals from other occupations, into the teaching force. As in current law, funds for these grants will be distributed in the following manner: 45 percent of the funds are reserved for State grants; 45 percent of the funds are reserved for partnership grants; and 10 percent of the funds are reserved for teacher recruitment grants.

State grants under the Act must be used to reform teacher preparation requirements, coordinate with teacher activities under Title II of the No Child Left Behind Act, and ensure that current and future teachers are highly qualified. Programs administered through state grants would focus on effective teacher preparation, placing a renewed emphasis on the skills needed to meet the highly qualified standard: the use of advanced technology in the classroom, rigorous academic content knowledge, scientifically based research, and challenging state student academic content standards.

In addition, states are authorized to use grant funds for innovative methods for teacher preparation programs, such as charter colleges of education, which can provide an alternative gateway for teachers to become highly qualified. Teacher advancement and retention initiatives will also be created, such as merit-based performance systems and professional growth opportunities. These activities will help ensure that schools are able to recruit highly qualified teachers while having the necessary flexibility to remove incompetent or unqualified teachers.

The Ready to Teach Act authorizes partnership grants so educational entities can combine expertise and resources to improve teacher training. Each eligible partnership must include at least: (1) a high quality teacher preparation program at an institution of higher education; (2) a school of arts and sciences; (3) a high need LEA; and (4) a public or private educational organization. Among other things, partnership activities will help ensure that teachers are able to use advanced technology effectively in the classroom, ad-

dress the needs of students with different learning styles (particularly students with disabilities), and receive training in methods of improving student behavior in the classroom.

Teacher recruitment grants under the Ready to Teach Act will help bring high quality individuals into teacher programs, and ultimately put more highly qualified teachers into classrooms. The Ready to Teach Act recognizes the need to ensure that high need local educational agencies are able to effectively recruit highly qualified teachers, and will help answer that need by increasing the number of teachers being trained. Additionally, this legislation places a priority on applicants that will emphasize measures to recruit minorities into the teaching profession.

Current law provisions in Title II of the Higher Education Act include annual reporting requirements to hold states and teacher preparation programs accountable for producing a competent teaching force. The Ready to Teach Act strengthens these reporting requirements to ensure complete and effective information is available to determine the effectiveness of teacher preparation programs. Under this legislation:

States must report annually to the Secretary of Education on the percentage of students passing state certification or licensure and rank the quality of all teacher preparation programs in the state.

The Secretary of Education must analyze teacher qualifications and preparation in the United States, providing: a comparison of states' efforts to improve teaching quality; and the national mean and median scores on any standardized test that is used in 1 or more state for teacher certification or licensure.

Institutions of higher education with teacher preparation programs must report on the number of students passing state certification requirements, with improved reporting requirements that will prevent "gaming" of data that leave results without meaning. Additionally, institutions must compare both pass rates and average scores of their program participants with those of other programs in the state, making effective comparison data available to measure program quality.

The Ready to Teach Act of 2003 will improve the quality and accountability of our nation's teacher preparation programs. I ask my colleagues to support this legislation and look forward to working with the distinguished Chairman of the Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness, Mr. MCKEON, and the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Mr. KILDEE, to move this bill so we can ensure our children are receiving a world class education.

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#### INTRODUCTION OF THE HISPANIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT ACT

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague, Congressman CIRO RODRIGUEZ, in introducing the Hispanic Health Improvement Act of 2003.

Every 24 hours in this country, over 2,700 people are diagnosed with diabetes, just one of the multitude of diseases and illnesses plaguing our Nation. And of these 2,700 daily

new cases of diabetes, minority groups like Latinos are disproportionately affected.

But diabetes is not the only illness that burdens Hispanic communities more than non-Hispanic populations. Diseases like asthma, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular disease, obesity and cancer consistently plague Latino communities at rates that are simply unacceptable.

As many of you will recall, in 1999, Congress petitioned the Institute of Medicine to conduct a report to assess the extent of racial and ethnic disparities in health care and the resulting disease outcomes. We have been given our answers.

Some of the top research institutions in the country continually report that the health of Hispanics in the U.S. is deteriorating and must be addressed.

For example, 37 percent of non-elderly Latinos are uninsured—a rate twice that of non-Hispanic whites, and most come from working families. The incidence of AIDS among Hispanics is around 200 per 100,000, while it is only 60 per 100,000 among non-Latino whites. list goes on and on.

Latinos are now 16 percent of the total population, so it is imperative that we address the increasing trends in poor Latino health. The need to act on behalf of our Latino communities is great, and today we are being presented with the opportunity to help.

The Hispanic Health Improvement Act is our chance to respond to the data and to commit to the health of our Latino communities across the U.S. This bill is a comprehensive measure focusing exclusively on improving the health among Latino populations. This bill expands the important State Children's Health Insurance Program, S-CHIP, to cover low-income pregnant women and parents, and it gives States the option to cover any individual below 100 percent of poverty under their Medicaid program. It provides for an enhanced 90 percent Federal matching rate to States through Medicaid and S-CHIP to provide language services—like oral interpretation, or translation of written materials—for individuals with limited English proficiency.

These services are extremely critical when one third of Latinos and over 40 percent of Spanish-speaking Latinos report having problems communicating with their health care provider.

The bill also addresses health disparities by establishing programs and grants to respond to diabetes, cancer, asthma, HIV infection, AIDS, obesity, oral health, mental health, and other illnesses. It also recognizes the need to strengthen the diversity in our health care work force by supporting Hispanic-serving health professional schools and training health providers in cultural competency.

As you can see, this legislation is the critical pivot point whereby we can reverse the sliding health of our Latino population.

In conclusion, I want to applaud the leadership of my good friend Congressman CRO RODRIGUEZ in championing this bill for several years.

I am pleased to be part of this effort and I urge my colleagues to seize this opportunity to protect the future health of Latinos—and all Americans—by cosponsoring this bill.

## OBSERVER STATUS FOR TAIWAN

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the World Health Organization's 56th World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland this week, and to voice my support of granting Taiwan observer status for WHO functions.

In her opening address to the Assembly, WHO Director-General Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland outlined the key lessons learned so far from the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and called for expanded surveillance and rapid response to save lives and protect economies against new diseases in the future.

In February, the world was introduced to this dangerous new disease. It is believed that the current epidemic originated in China, rapidly spread to East and Southeast Asia, and then onto Europe, the United States, Canada, and the rest of the world in a manner that left many in the medical community searching for answers.

Global infection rates seemed to peak in mid-March, but the persistent nature of SARS continues to raise concern among both medical professionals and government officials.

The United States has been able to keep this disease at bay—but other members of the international community have had more difficulty dealing with the disease and some international organizations have hindered the sharing of information and resources, most notably with Taiwan.

The World Health Organization has reported over 7,800 cases of SARS worldwide in 33 countries, with more than 600 deaths. More than 7,000 of these cases have been reported in Asia. The people of Taiwan have been especially affected. They have recorded 344 cases of SARS and 40 deaths, but have no representation in the World Health Organization. The international community does not largely recognize theirs as a legitimate government, thus limiting the degree of help that is available to this tiny, democratic nation. If Taiwan was able to participate as an observer of WHO, additional resources could be brought to bear to address their domestic health crisis.

More needs to be done to contain this disease and a good first step would be to grant WHO observer status to Taiwan.

On June 17, 2003, WHO plans to hold an international conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to review the epidemiological, clinical management and laboratory findings on SARS and to discuss global control strategies. Key participants in the response to the current outbreaks and other public health authorities will be invited to attend the conference. But since Taiwan is not even granted observer status in WHO, it has not been invited to participate in this vital convention. This is especially troubling, since recent reports show that Taiwan is at the epicenter of this epidemic.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting the admittance of Taiwan's health minister to attend the WHO's conference on infectious diseases next month in Malaysia.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
LARRY COMBEST

SPEECH OF

**HON. HENRY BONILLA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2003*

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express the deep admiration I share with each member of the Texas Delegation for Representative LARRY COMBEST. It is with a heavy heart that I stand here today to send off my friend from West Texas. LARRY and his lovely wife Sharon have truly made a difference to his constituents, the state of Texas and the nation.

While serving as Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, LARRY proved his true leadership during the deliberation of the 2002 Farm Bill. Through long, hard days and nights working tirelessly on the measure, LARRY never lost sight of the true reason for the bill. The farmers and ranchers of this nation owe LARRY a great debt of gratitude for his distinguished service. That being said, the true measure of LARRY COMBEST may not be his astute knowledge of agriculture and politics, but the balance he has kept between his public life and his private life. It is apparent to anyone who knows LARRY that his family has always been his top priority.

I commend LARRY for his great service, and wish him the best as he and Sharon embark together on their next adventure in life.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
LARRY COMBEST

SPEECH OF

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2003*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, when America's farmers and ranchers found themselves devoid of a proper safety net while facing record low prices, they found an advocate in LARRY COMBEST. As Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, LARRY utilized his trademark discipline to develop a balanced farm bill, seeking the input of countless producers.

His efforts resulted in a flexible farm policy that will provide stability to American agriculture producers for years to come. LARRY's leadership and strong voice will be sorely missed not only by his constituents in West Texas, but by all of rural America.

Further, Mr. Speaker, those of us who have had the pleasure of working with LARRY hold him in the highest regard not only as the visionary behind American farm policy, but also as a friend.

LARRY and his lovely wife Sharon were among the first people to welcome my wife and me to Washington when I arrived for the 107th Congress. They extended neighborly compassion and sound guidance, the very things you'd expect from a West Texas couple. Karen and I are truly grateful for their friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I wish LARRY COMBEST the best in his coming retirement.

THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION'S REVISION OF  
MEDIA OWNERSHIP RULES

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 218, a resolution that expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) should not revise its media ownership rules without more extensive review and without a public comment period. The FCC is scheduled to announce their decision on June 2, 2003.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important resolution because the proposed media ownership rules will undoubtedly be a drastic rewrite that would place huge limits on what Americans hear on the radio, watch on television or read in the newspaper. We should invite more review and public comment on the consequences of these changes before the rule is implemented.

Among other things, these proposed rules would permit a television corporation to own a radio station and a newspaper in the same market. They would also increase the number of stations a television company can own from two to three. These rules will result in increased mergers activity and ultimately, in many markets, Americans will get all aspects of their news and information from one company.

The legislated goals of the FCC include fostering competition, local control and an array of voices. But these proposed rules go against the FCC's own objectives by allowing a massive concentration of power and putting local stations out of business. These rules would create homogenized programming.

The United States prides itself on diversity and freedom of the press. My constituents have expressed concern at the thought of one media outlet controlling all of the news and information they receive about their government, their fellow citizens and their culture.

I am hopeful that by June 2, 2003, FCC Chairman Michael Powell will hear the voices of Americans and postpone implementation of his rule so that he can hold public discussions and conduct a more extensive review.

TRIBUTE TO CHI CHI RODRIQUEZ

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to Mr. Juan "Chi Chi" Rodriguez, one of the great showmen in sports history. In a career that spans four decades, Chi Chi has won eight times on the PGA Tour and now boasts twenty-two Senior Tour victories. His colorful performances still make him a gallery favorite, while his shot-making skills have earned him the respect of his peers.

Chi Chi was born in 1935 in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, and he grew up in the hot, dusty sugar cane fields of Rio Piedras, where he helped his father tend the fields. He began

caddying at the age of six and actually learned how to play golf with clubs fashioned out of Guava tree limbs and tin cans hammered into balls. At the age of 12, he shot a 67. He became known for his hand-eye coordination and imagination, skills that for more than forty years have helped him overcome all types of obstacles. But Chi Chi's talents extend beyond what he is able to do with a golf ball. From his matador routine to his good-natured impersonations of fellow competitors, Chi Chi is an entertainer at heart.

Mr. Speaker, what truly separates Chi Chi from his peers is that he has coupled his success on the golf course with a strong personal desire to make a positive impact. This has manifested itself in the countless hours he spends at the Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation in Clearwater, Florida. This foundation serves as a safe haven for troubled and abused youngsters. Chi Chi's philosophy is simple; he wants kids to have a chance. Based on love and respect, the program builds confidence, instills discipline and provides positive educational experiences.

Clearly, Chi Chi Rodriguez is a champion golfer, but he is a greater champion in the lives of youths and the Hispanic community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chi Chi Rodriguez for his illustrious and distinguished career and for his extraordinary contributions to the Hispanic community and to young people in the United States.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO  
THE WINNERS OF THE "WHAT  
MAKES AMERICA GREAT" ESSAY  
CONTEST

**HON. RICHARD H. BAKER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate four outstanding students from the 6th district of Louisiana who won an essay contest titled "What Makes America Great."

As you know, Mr. Speaker, following the terrorism of September 11, when Americans were attacked for who we are, and at a time when young Americans are defending our freedoms on foreign soil, it is important to recall what America is all about and what we stand for. In an effort to remind us all of the greatness of our country, I turned to high school students in my district to draft essays and poetry that expresses their feelings of "What Makes America Great." I would now like to read the winning submissions to the members of Congress.

The honorable mention of the essay contest is Alexander Edelen who attends Bishop Sullivan High School in Baton Rouge and is in the 10th grade. Alexander writes:

What makes America great? The great diversity of cultures, religions, and people make the United States a unique melting pot. This diversity brings different voices with different views to the government, allowing the United States to prosper. There were many cultures that came to America, including the French, English, African and Spanish. Each culture brought its technology, religion, and livelihood to America. The blending of these cultures made the United States evolve into the America seen today. America also has many religious de-

nominations, such as Native Indian religions, and the Roman Catholic and Protestant Christian denominations. These varied beliefs give the United States a unique background for viewing the world from different perspectives. America's many cultures and religions have influenced the development of the United States, but it was the amazing cooperation of the people that held the United States together through good and bad times. The bravery, strength, wisdom, and willpower of the people have made life better for the United States and for the rest of the world. It was the people who chose this republican form of government, the people who saved the Union, the people who saved the world during the World Wars, and the people who now wish to see the end of terrorism. Is the United States a great place in which to live? Yes. In the United States of America, citizens and legal aliens are free to be diverse; it is this diversity that makes America a strong and proud nation.

Our third place winner from Denham Springs High School is Steven Sikes. Steven writes:

What makes America great is not its military might or the strength of its industry or even some kind of technological superiority. It is something less tangible but at the same time much more powerful that makes America great. It is the unconquerable spirit of its inhabitants that makes this country so special. The nature of this American spirit is demonstrated in revolutionary war slogans such as, "Give me liberty or give me death!" It is the belief that the personal freedoms of the individual are more important than anything else and should be fought for no matter what the cost. It is embodied in the nature of our government, which is unique in that it exists only as a tool for achieving the will of the American people and not for its own sake. Finally, the true nature of the American spirit is most evident in the courage and strength of the ordinary American citizen. The powerful and enduring American spirit is what makes this nation so incredible. Without it America would not be what it is today. It is what has enabled America to withstand all of the trials it has faced so far, and it is what will guide our country into a prosperous future.

Mallory Braud of East Ascension High School placed second with her poem America the Great:

Greatness comes in many forms  
Not just brains and brawn  
Like now in this time of war  
We keep on, keeping on  
United our nation stands  
Always proud and true  
We show our heroic pride  
Through the red, white, and blue  
Our strength is in our numbers  
We stand together now  
A band of faithful brothers  
Our freedom shows us how  
We live in peaceful harmony  
Unless we choose to fight  
We welcome all these strangers  
To try to do what's right  
We are too united to fail  
And too determined to fall  
We lend our helping hands  
So our nation may stand tall  
The people who all live here  
By chance, choice, or fate  
All come together to form  
America the Great.

Colleen Wesley wrote our first place essay and she attends Denham Springs High School. Colleen writes:

What makes America great? Is it the stock market or the government? Is it the culture

or the food on our plates? Many people have different views on what makes America great, but to me, freedom is the only answer. Without freedom, we would not be able to choose our religion. Without freedom, we would not be able to state our opinions. Without freedom, we would not be able to express the many talents God has given us. As Americans, we have laws protecting us against religious persecution. We are free to worship as we choose. We are also free to choose to not worship. We are able to criticize our government without being thrown in jail and we are able to decide our future career. There are many things that make America great, but freedom is most important to me. I stand strong saying, "I'm proud to be an American!"

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the students who participated in the "What Makes America Great" essay contest, and also in offering a special word of congratulations to our four finalists.

BIRTH OF SANTIAGO ROYBAL OLIVAREZ

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the best and most notable announcement a Member of Congress can ever make about a constituent: my grandson, Santiago Roybal Olivarez was born on Friday, May 16, 2003.

Santiago is blessed to have a full contingent of doting family members ready to spoil him as soon as circumstances allow. My husband, Ed Allard, and I constitute one pair of loving grandparents. We are joined in our admiration of little Santiago by his maternal grandmother, Josefita Prietto. Santiago's great-grandparents—my father, former Representative Edward Roybal, and my mother, Lucille Beserra Roybal—and all his aunts and uncles, help complete the circle of Santiago's extensive admiration society.

Better yet, Santiago has an admiring big brother in 1-year-old Diego. Diego has undergone major health problems since his own birth, causing real worries for his parents, Ricardo and Rory Olivarez. I hope very few parents will ever know the anxiety that Ricardo and Rory have experienced as the parents of a child inexplicably and unexpectedly born with an undiagnosed birth defect as they went forward faithfully with a second pregnancy. So everyone in the Roybal family, as well as Ricardo's and Rory's many friends who understand what they have gone through during the past 18 months, now share their joy that 7 pound, 6 ounce Santiago is healthy and happy.

Last Friday, I was fortunate to be with Rory and Ricardo on the wonderful day of Santiago's birth, and I intend to exercise my prerogatives as grandmother, to be first in line for babysitting duty for newborn Santiago and big brother Diego.

Speaking on behalf of baby Santiago, I know that he is well prepared, along with big brother Diego, to provide Ricardo and Rory many joyous days and sleepless nights in the weeks and months to come. I know my colleagues join me in wishing the Olivarez family the very best in the years ahead.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2003*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to express my support for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Made possible through an act of the United States Congress in 1978, Asian Pacific American Heritage Week was then expanded into a month long celebration in 1992. The month of May was appropriately chosen to commemorate the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States and the completion of the transcontinental railroad. As we celebrate the 25th year, this May is an excellent opportunity for all Americans to celebrate, honor and reflect on the many accomplishments and contributions of the Asian Pacific American community.

From the transcontinental railroad to the halls of Congress, Asian Pacific Americans have played a major role in the development of our nation with an increasing presence in the Federal government. I would like to acknowledge the many accomplished leaders of Asian descent currently serving our country. In the President's Cabinet alone, we have two prominent leaders, Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao and Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, the first Asian Pacific American to serve in the President's Cabinet. Congressman BOB MATSUI, Chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, is the first Asian Pacific American to serve in the House Democratic leadership. Washington Governor Gary Locke, Chair of the Democratic Governors Association, is the first Asian Pacific American to deliver the Democratic response to the President's State of the Union Address.

And of course, one cannot have a discussion about leadership within the Asian Pacific American community without reflecting on the career and accomplishments of my dear friend, the late Congresswoman PATSY MINK. We must continue on in this tradition by encouraging more Asian Pacific Americans to forge ahead in non-traditional sectors as my friend PATSY MINK did. PATSY was a true trailblazer. She was the first Asian Pacific American woman to practice law in Hawaii and the first woman of color elected to Congress. The APA community has come far from its humble beginnings, but there is still much work we need to do.

While APAs as a whole have flourished in the United States, there are still challenges facing certain segments of the community. Recent immigrants and refugees are still working to achieve the American dream. My district is home to Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander populations whose challenges include post-war stress and inadequate job skills. I urge my colleagues not to forget those who are struggling to overcome language and cultural barriers, as well as discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce legislation that will ensure the Asian Pacific American community continues to thrive. In the 108th Congress, I have introduced the following bills:

- H.R. 1984, the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act, provides veteran benefits to the Filipino

veterans who fought side by side with American soldiers during World War II. In addition to providing desperately needed health care to veterans, this bill calls for home loan assistance for U.S. based Filipino veterans, educational assistance for U.S. and Philippine based dependents, vocational rehabilitation, and employment services, job counseling, training, and placement services for U.S. based veterans.

- H.R. 1486 urges the Secretary of Education to commission a study to examine ways to increase the graduation rate for Native American and Native Hawaiian secondary school students, as well as for students residing in American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam.

- H.R. 1983, the Amerasian Justice Act, will amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to facilitate the immigration to the United States of children born in the Philippines or Japan who were fathered by United States citizens. There are now more than 50,000 Amerasian children in the Philippines and 6,000 Amerasian children in Japan burdened by social stigma and psychological stress which affect viable opportunities for employment, education or family life.

- H. Con. Res. 83 honors the victims of the Cambodian genocide that took place between 1975 and 1979, and pays tribute to the survivors who made their way to the United States. It also expresses the sense of Congress's commitment to pursue justice for the victims.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent a district that reflects America's greatest strength—our rich cultural diversity. As we commemorate May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, we must celebrate the culture, traditions and achievements of Asian Pacific Americans, but we must also reflect on how to meet the challenges that will face the community in years to come.

HONORING JOHN MILBURN

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and constituent, John Milburn, his retirement from the Meadows School in Las Vegas.

John was born in Waga Wag, Australia. He moved to the United States in 1961 to attend the University of Oregon. John was the first Australian to be recruited for a college basketball team. John became a United States Citizen in 1990.

After completing his undergraduate work and a Masters in Education at the University of Oregon, he moved to Nevada and became a teacher at Boulder City High School. He spent 30 years at Boulder City High, teaching Physics, Chemistry, AP Physics, and AP Chemistry.

He coached the boys basketball team for 28 years at Boulder City High School, and led them to 8 State Championships. John was honored this year by being inducted in the Boulder City Coaches Hall of Fame.

John left Boulder City High School to become a teacher at the Meadows School in Las Vegas. He is now retiring after having spent

10 years at the Meadows school teaching AP Physics and coaching the girls basketball team.

John Milburn is a wonderful teacher, athlete, and citizen. I am honored to join his wife Christine, his students at Meadows and Boulder City High School, and all Nevadans in congratulating him on his exceptional career.

HONORING OUR FALLEN HEROES  
ON MEMORIAL DAY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, on Memorial Day, we will somberly celebrate the lives of a new generation of fallen heroes and honor American soldiers who paid the ultimate price in battle. We can only offer our gratitude as a small measure of comfort to the families of the young American men and women who will not be returning home from Afghanistan or Iraq.

Like those Americans before them, these brave men and women heeded our Nation's call to duty and followed their Commander-in-Chief's orders to go to battle, willingly and dutifully. They sacrificed their lives in wars and conflicts that their comrades are still fighting today.

As we pay tribute to the lost soldiers, we hope for the safe return of the men and women still on the battlefield, overseas and in hostile territory. To serve their country, they left behind families and loved ones, jobs and communities. But like millions of American soldiers through the years, they will be back on U.S. soil soon enough.

It is our duty to live up to the promises that we made to each and every one of those soldiers and to every veteran who served his or her nation. Unfortunately, the painful truth is veterans' critical needs are being ignored each day. It is shameful that 200,000 veterans must wait 6 months or more for their first appointment at a VA medical facility. It is disgraceful that the current Republican budget calls for cutting veterans' health care by \$6.2 billion over the next ten years. It is unpatriotic to burden our retired soldiers and their families with extra costs for prescription drugs and doctor visits.

Is this what our soldiers have to look forward to? A litany of broken promises? Congress and the President must keep their promises to the nation's veterans and make adequate investments in veterans' health care. Because of President Bush's budget priorities and tax breaks for millionaires, veterans will continue to suffer the consequences. Democrats have offered a plan to roll back health care cost increases imposed by the Bush Administration and the Republican Congress, expand health care access for veterans and educational opportunities for reservists, and provide cash bonuses to soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition, families of those killed on active duty would receive higher benefits under the Democratic proposal.

Our brave men and women have met all kinds of threats and have defeated unspeakable dangers, but they must not be forced to fight for what is rightfully theirs here at home. Our veterans may be gone from the military, but they must not be forgotten.

RURAL AFRICA AND THE KYOTO  
PROTOCOL

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, as someone who has visited rural Africa, I was fascinated by the testimony of Dr. John Christy at a recent hearing I chaired on the Kyoto Protocol. Dr. Christy, who is the Alabama State Climatologist, worked as a missionary to Kenya in the 1970's. He observed the great hardships faced by rural men and women living in villages without electricity.

Dr. Christy noted that, "With only three to five acres on the family shamba, every square inch was utilized for food production and living space, so the search for fuel was a daily chore for the women and young girls. I would see them daily set out to the edge of the nearest forest, usually several miles away, to cut down wet, green trees, chop the branches into suitable lengths, tie them into 80 pound bundles and load them on their backs for the trek home. Many of these women were either pregnant or carrying babies in blankets tied in front of them."

He further observed, "The typical home was a mud-walled, thatched-roof structure. Smoke from the cooking fire fueled by undried wood was especially irritating to breathe as one entered the home. The fine particles and toxic emissions from these in-house, open fires assured serious lung and eye diseases for a lifetime."

Dr. Christy concludes by stating, "Providing energy from sources other than biomass (wood and dung), such as coal-produced electricity, would bring longer and better lives to the people of the developing world and greater opportunity for the preservation of their natural ecosystems. Let me assure you, notwithstanding the views of extreme environmentalists, that Africans do indeed want a higher standard of living. They want to live longer and healthier with less burden bearing and with more opportunities to advance. New sources of affordable, accessible energy would set them down the road of achieving such aspirations."

The Kyoto Protocol and other efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions have potential to substantially increase human pain and suffering in undeveloped countries while doing very little to stop the destruction of forests. I encourage climate policy makers from wealthy counties to carefully read the following letter from Dr. Christy and avoid the unintended consequences that cause pain and suffering to rural people in developing countries.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA  
IN HUNTSVILLE,  
Huntsville, AL, May 22, 2003.

Hon. RICHARD POMBO,  
Chairman, House Committee on Resources,  
Longworth House Office Building, Wash-  
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN POMBO: It was a pleasure participating in your 13 May 2003 hearing regarding the Kyoto Protocol. As you requested, I am happy to provide this letter to clarify and expand on your question during the hearing about how my experiences working and living in Africa affect my insights into the issue of global warming.

After graduating from college in 1973 I applied for service as a missionary to Kenya. I

was appointed to a position as "Science Master" at the Baptist High School in Nyeri, meaning I taught the physics and chemistry courses to African students from mostly rural areas. Baptist High was a boarding school, so many of our students came from homes several miles away. On weekends I would travel to the surrounding small villages to meet the students' families and speak in their churches. Nyeri was a small, upcountry town about 90 miles north of Nairobi. Most of the people in this area lived on small "shambas", 3 to 5 acre farms on which maize and other foods were grown. At 6000+ feet elevation, some days and most nights were quite cool, requiring energy for warmth as well as cooking and light. There was no electricity in these rural homes.

With only 3 to 5 acres on the family shamba, every square inch was utilized for food production and living space, so the search for fuel was a daily chore for the women and young girls. I would see them daily set out to the edge of the nearest forest, usually several miles away, to cut down wet, green trees, chop the branches into suitable lengths, tie them into 80 pound bundles and load them on their backs for the trek home. Many of these women were either pregnant or carrying small babies in blankets tied in front of them. They would bend forward almost 90 degrees so as to balance the wood and maintain forward momentum without falling. Older women developed a characteristic sway-back from years of burden bearing as they hauled not only wood, but food to and from the markets and water from a creek to the home.

The typical home was a mud-walled, thatched-roof structure. Smoke from the cooking fire fueled by undried wood was especially irritating to breathe as one entered the home. The fine particles and toxic emissions from these in-house, open fires assured serious lung and eye diseases for a lifetime. And, keeping such fires fueled and burning required a major amount of time, preventing the people from engaging in other less environmentally damaging pursuits.

When the Arab Oil Embargo hit in October 1973, the price of fuel rose dramatically. Oil's scarcity caused petrol (gasoline) stations to close on weekends. What little advanced infrastructure already in place that depended on oil was rendered intermittent or ineffective. For example, taxi prices increased so that the typical African could not afford the desperately needed trip to the town hospital; rumors spread that driving with the headlights on wasted fuel, so night automobile accidents soared; electric power to the few essential institutions which needed it often failed. To people already living on the edge of existence, any perturbation in energy costs was enough to cause significant distress. The poorest people suffered the most with the rising energy costs as what little dependency they had was now out of reach.

I've always believed that establishing a series of coal-fired power plants in countries such as Kenya (with simple electrification to the villages) would be the best advancement for the African people and the African environment. An electric light bulb, a microwave oven and a small heater in each home would make a dramatic difference in the overall standard of living. No longer would a major portion of time be spent on gathering inefficient and toxic fuel. The serious health problems of hauling heavy loads and lung poisoning would be much reduced. Women would be freed to engage in activities of greater productivity and advancement. Light on demand would allow for more learning to take place and other activities to be completed. Electricity would also foster a more efficient transfer of important information from radio or television. And finally, the

preservation of some of the most beautiful and diverse habitats on the planet would be possible if wood were eliminated as a source of energy.

Providing energy from sources other than biomass (wood and dung), such as coal-produced electricity, would bring longer and better lives to the people of the developing world and greater opportunity for the preservation of their natural ecosystems. Let me assure you, notwithstanding the views of extreme environmentalists, that Africans do indeed want a higher standard of living. They want to live longer and healthier with less burden bearing and with more opportunities to advance. New sources of affordable, accessible energy would set them down the road of achieving such aspirations.

These experiences made it clear to me that affordable, accessible energy was desperately needed in African countries. But the energy issue is relevant here too. My wife, Babs, is the President of the Board of Directors of the Madison County Christian Women's Job Corps. This privately-funded, voluntarily-directed organization seeks to train women to obtain the type of job skills needed today. Most of the women, often single parents, are in financial crisis. Increasing the cost of energy for these women would disproportionately restrict their ability to provide for themselves and their families. As in Africa, ideas for limiting energy use, as embodied in the Kyoto protocol, create the greatest hardships for the poorest among us. As I mentioned in the Hearing, enacting any of these noblesounding initiatives to deal with climate change through increased energy costs, might make a wealthy urbanite or politician feel good about themselves, but they would not improve the environment and would most certainly degrade the lives of those who need help now.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond with further explanation of my experiences in Africa and my views on energy availability.

Sincerely,

JOHN R. CHRISTY,  
*Director, Earth System Science Center,  
Professor, Atmospheric Science,  
Alabama State Climatologist.*

## HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARON P. HILL**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, Southern Indiana is blessed with natural beauty, and the Hoosier National Forest in my congressional district is an important source of this beauty. I have greatly enjoyed my visits to this national forest over the years.

Today I voted against passage of H.R. 1904, The Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. I decided not to support this legislation after giving it careful consideration and weighing its effects on my constituents.

I have many constituents who regularly visit the Hoosier National Forest. They enjoy hiking, fishing, horseback riding and mountain biking in the forest. My constituents also feel strongly about the right to comment on and participate in the management decisions that are made regarding this beautiful national forest.

I voted against H.R. 1904 because I am very concerned that it would result in my con-

stituents having fewer opportunities to comment on forest policy proposals. H.R. 1904 would expand the use of "categorical exclusions" by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management and reduce the opportunities for the public to comment.

I have consistently supported efforts to ensure the public has meaningful opportunities to comment on national forest policy proposals, and I will continue to support the public's right to comment. I voted against H.R. 1904 because it could limit the opportunities the public would have to participate in forest policy-making decisions.

## REMEMBERING THE SACRIFICES OF THE VIETNAM WAR

**HON. VITO FOSSELLA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, this week, my district in Staten Island is honored to host the Vietnam Wall Experience. I would like to take this opportunity to talk about the heroism of the fathers, sons, sisters and daughters that gave their lives during that conflict.

These men and women traveled around the world to serve their country. They joined the military for different reasons and with different backgrounds, but were united in purpose to serve the cause of freedom.

Matthew Bono, at 25, was six years older than the average draftee. He became a father-figure to his fellow soldiers, as beloved there as he was throughout his home neighborhood. He did not survive Khe Sanh. Vincent James Caravello enlisted just before his 18th birthday, right out of high school. He was killed in Thua Thien five months after he arrived in Vietnam.

The Grunt Padre, Father Vincent Capodanno, died trying to rescue men while under fire. He was known for his devotion to "his" Marines and put himself in harm's way for them again and again.

Other men were never fully accounted for after they disappeared. Lt. Kevin O'Brien served as a spotter in a U.S. Army Bird Dog O1-G craft. He is believed to have crashed over Khe Sanh in South Vietnam during bad weather on January 9, 1969. Air Force Major Gerald Crosson, Jr., was declared missing on May 16, 1968 after his plane did not return from a night reconnaissance mission.

America lost fifty-eight thousand in Vietnam, including 84 from Staten Island. And then there are the wounded, POW-MIA and other veterans, all of whom deserve our deepest thanks. Today on Staten Island, nearly twelve thousand Vietnam veterans still make their homes.

There is no truly adequate way to put into words our appreciation for those who made the ultimate sacrifice. I believe it was wise to have the memorial be simply a wall, bearing the names for us to remember.

However, that does not relieve us of the responsibility to find a way to express to our children and theirs why it is that we have such love for the ones who gave their lives.

They knew the danger when they went in, and ultimately they were fighting for us. America is stronger today because of the example they set. We must teach our children to study

what these men did and why it was a noble cause. We are grateful to the Vietnam Wall Experience for helping make that job a little easier.

## TRIBUTE TO ROBERT C. ROLLISON

**HON. MARION BERRY**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Arkansan, an outstanding citizen and one of my best friends since childhood. I am proud to recognize Bob Rollison in the United States Congress for his invaluable contributions and service to his community, his state and his nation.

Bob Rollison (Robert Charles Rollison as his mother called him) has been my great friend since we were both seventh-graders at DeWitt Junior High School. Even as a teenager, he was the kind of person that would befriend everyone, and in my case, he was a friend to a country kid that had come to a new school. Bob has always had the unique ability to make everyone feel comfortable.

Even as we grew into adulthood, got married and raised a family, we continued to enjoy spending a lot of time together, particularly hunting. Through it all, Bob was always the trustworthy person that everyone could depend on.

When Bob assumed the responsibility of running his family's business, he was known by colleagues, customers, and even competitors, as fair, honest, and accommodating. He was not only a supplier to local farmers, but worked diligently to provide them with information on the latest technology and equipment. But, more than anything else, you could always go to Bob for a kind word, good advice, and an honest opinion.

Bob has been active in many leadership roles in the community and in the agriculture business. He served in the Junior Chamber of Commerce, local politics, seed organizations, and numerous projects to make our community a better place to live and work.

Bob is now battling a serious illness, and continues to have the great attitude and spirit that he has generously shared with those around him throughout his life. He has made life richer for all—like me—who are fortunate enough to call him a friend. On behalf of Congress, I pay tribute to my good friend, Bob Rollison, for his tireless service to Arkansas and the United States.

## REINTRODUCTION OF THE HIS- PANIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT ACT

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to reintroduce the Hispanic Health Improvement Act along with my lead cosponsor Congresswoman HILDA SOLIS. This legislation is a comprehensive bill aimed at improving Hispanic health in the United States.

As the fastest growing population in the U.S., Hispanics now comprise close to 13 percent of the total population. Yet, they continue

to face numerous challenges in accessing quality care. Hispanics make up 23 percent of the total uninsured population. According to a report by the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, nearly 37 percent of Hispanics under the age of 64 are uninsured. Sadly, 31 percent of Hispanic children are uninsured.

Access to affordable, quality health care is a challenge—this includes economic challenges, language barriers, cultural differences, citizenship status, even location plays a key role. And we know that it has a direct relation to health disparities. Hispanics continue to suffer disproportionately from chronic and infectious diseases such as diabetes, cancer, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis.

We need targeted public policy changes to reverse these trends in both the short-term and the long-term. I believe we can do so by greatly expanding insurance and other coverage, by addressing specific diseases that disproportionately impact the Hispanic community (and other communities of color), and by making institutional changes in our health professions and training so that more doctors are sensitive to the particular needs of the Hispanic community.

The Hispanic Health Improvement Act offers a variety of different strategies for expanding health care coverage, improving access and affordability, reducing health disparities and strengthening our nation's health care workforce. While I consider each provision in our bill to be important, I am just going to highlight some of the more urgent ones.

In order to address the lack of health care coverage, we examined ways to expand existing programs like SCHIP and Medicaid. While this is not a new idea, it will have an enormous impact on the Hispanic population. The legislation provides for the expansion of the successful State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to cover uninsured low-income pregnant women and parents. In addition, it provides states the option to enroll legal immigrant pregnant women and children in Medicaid or SCHIP, and other individuals based on need.

The bill also provides for a number of measures to reduce health disparities. First and foremost, it requires an annual report to Congress on how federal programs are responding to improve the health status of Hispanic individuals with respect to diabetes, cancer, asthma, HIV infection, AIDS, substance abuse, and mental health. Increased funds are provided for targeted diabetes prevention, education, school-based programs, and screening activities in the Hispanic community. Similarly, the bill provides for targeted funding for programs aimed at the prevention of suicides among Hispanic girls.

Access and affordability are key components to improving Hispanic's health care status. The bill provides for grants to expand dental services in medically underserved areas. Provisions are included to support promotoras, or community health workers, who work to improve the health of women and families. A special emphasis is placed on border health by authorizing \$200 million to improve health and infrastructure along the U.S.-Mexico border. Communities along the border often experience health care provider shortages making them medically underserved areas.

The last title of the Hispanic Health Improvement Act focuses on the reduction of

health care disparities by addressing the lack of providers who can provide culturally competent and linguistically appropriate care. The bill provides for increased funding for HRSA's health professions diversity programs. It also seeks to promote the training of bilingual health professionals and creates a Center for Linguistic and Cultural Competence in Health Care within OMH. The Center would carry out programs that promote and facilitate the provision of health-related services, education, and training in a culturally competent manner.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support and cosponsor the Hispanic Health Improvement Act. As the Hispanic community continues to grow, the implementation of these provisions will take on an even greater importance. The consequences of inaction will be felt for years to come in greater health care needs, lower productivity, and higher rates of mortality and disability.

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ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN  
HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2003*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to stand before my colleagues and celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Asian and Pacific Americans have been a part of this country for over 200 years, with one of the first Asian American communities, the Filipino community, being established in the Louisiana Bayou in 1763. Since that date, the Asian Pacific American community has come a long way.

According to Census projections, Asians and Pacific Islanders (APIs) will account for 6.5 percent of the nation's population by the year 2025, and by 2050 they will account for 9.3 percent. Consequently, by 2050 about one out of every 11 Americans will trace their heritage to API roots. As this community continues to grow, it is important for all of us to continue to learn from each other.

In the 9th Congressional District, I am very fortunate to represent a vibrant and productive Asian Pacific American community that totals over 70,000 people. The community is very diverse, including Chinese, Indians, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis, Vietnamese, Koreans, Filipinos, and Samoans. Ranging from doctors to teachers to small business owners, each member of the API community enhances our district and makes it a better place to live and work for all of my constituents. Whether I am marching in Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, and Sikh parades on Devon Street or celebrating the Lunar New Year on Argyle Street, I cannot help but feel a sense of pride when I see so many different cultures all tied to the single bond of being American.

Congress recognizes the importance of the Asian Pacific American community and displays this through the numerous Caucuses representing many nations, ranging from India to Cambodia. Congressional staffers have also done their part to educate themselves about the Asian Pacific American community through staff organizations such as CAPASA, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Staff Association, and SAACSA, the South Asian Amer-

ican Congressional Staff Association, of which I am proud to be a sponsor. As a Member of Congress, I will continue to utilize these resources to work with community leaders on key issues such as education and immigration, as well as encourage more Asian Americans to enter the public sector at the local, state and federal levels.

The rich cultural history and traditions of Asian Pacific communities enrich all of our lives and contribute to the American culture. Now more than ever, we need to work side by side with community leaders to help educate those outside the community that Asian Pacific Americans are, first and foremost, Americans who share the same core values and beliefs as all communities in this country. The Asian Pacific American community has come so far in such a short period of time, and I am confident that it will only continue to grow and thrive while maintaining its many cultures and values.

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IN SUPPORT OF YEVGENIYA  
DOBROVOLSKA AND MYKOLA  
DOBROVOLSKYY

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker I rise today to introduce a private relief bill on behalf of Yevgeniya Dobrovolska and Mykola Dobrovolskyy.

Mr. Speaker, in 1999, Alexander Dobrovolskiy brought his wife Yevgeniya and son Mykola to the United States from the Ukraine to pursue the American dream. He worked for Prophet Financial Systems, Inc. and immediately impressed his colleagues as a committed and hard working man. Most importantly, Alexander Dobrovolskiy's greatest source of pride was his family and he demonstrated this pride as a dedicated husband and father.

Tragically, Alexander Dobrovolskiy was killed in a car accident on November 8, 2002. Prior to his death, he had applied for a green card, with his wife and son as beneficiaries of this petition. As a result of his unforeseen death, this application will be automatically terminated and his wife and son will be denied their green cards.

I'm proud to introduce a bill which provides relief for Yevgeniya Dobrovolska and Mykola Dobrovolskyy. My bill readjusts their status to permanent resident status so that Yevgeniya and Mykola will be able to remain in the United States and continue to live out the dream of Alexander.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill which will restore the hopes of Yevgeniya Dobrovolska and Mykola Dobrovolskyy.

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TRIBUTE TO MIKE ALLEN

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a beloved friend, outstanding community leader and longtime Congressional

aide, the late E.T. "Mike" Allen of Whitesboro, Texas, who passed away on March 14 of this year at the age of 83. Mike served as District Assistant for my predecessor, the late Congressman Ray Roberts, from 1969 to 1980, and as my district assistant from 1980 to 1995. He also served as a member of my screening board for U.S. Military Academies and was my trusted friend and associate.

Mike was knowledgeable about the legislative process—and was so understanding and helpful with constituents who sought assistance with their concerns and problems. He knew the Congressional District from top to bottom, and in addition to being knowledgeable, was always punctual and available. He was always a gentleman and always kind in everything he did.

Mike truly enjoyed people and lived a life of service—both in the workplace and in his community and church. In all that he did—and with all whom he met—Mike brought an abiding sense of optimism and a smile that was his trademark. His favorite saying was "Always keep a happy heart." He loved people. He loved his family. He had a deep and abiding faith in God. I know of no one who knew Mike who did not consider him a friend. He was a man of honor, integrity and a generous nature.

Mike was distinguished in all walks of life. He was a well-liked and well-respected community leader in Whitesboro and Sherman. He served as mayor of Whitesboro for five terms—the last of which he was elected by write-in votes. Among his many civic activities, he served as president of the Whitesboro Chamber of Commerce, president of the local Rotary Club, president of the Quarterback Club, Master of Masonic Lodge #263 and Post Commander of the American Legion Post #398.

Mike was also president of the Grayson County Development Council, a member of the original committee that secured the site for Grayson County College, chairman of the Parent's Committee for the 125th Anniversary Commission, a Council board member of the Boy Scouts of America and an elder in the Presbyterian Church of Whitesboro. He served on the Wilson N. Jones Foundation Board of Directors and was a board member of the Grayson County Campfire Girls of America, the Old Settlers Park Association in Sherman and the Grayson County Child Welfare.

Mike also was a frequent visitor of the local domino hall and a good player in his own right. Playing dominoes was a cherished tradition that facilitated comradery and friendship and served as an unofficial repository of historic and humorous events in the life of Whitesboro.

It comes as no surprise that Mike was named Outstanding Citizen of Whitesboro twice—in 1970 and 1998.

Mike was born in Whitesboro on December 31, 1919, the son of E.T. Allen Sr. and Mary Anderson Allen. He graduated from Whitesboro High School in 1936 and from North Texas State University in Denton. He entered the U.S. Air Force in 1942, where he became a first lieutenant. On returning to Whitesboro, he entered into private business with his father for 23 years before joining Congressman Roberts' staff.

In 1946 he married his loving wife of 57 years, Mary Ann Roberts Allen, a graduate of

Texas Woman's University of Denton. They had a special marriage—and they have a devoted family that includes their son, Michael Allen of Tyler and daughter-in-law Carol and granddaughters Lindsay and Carly; daughter Marcy Allen Brown of Greenville and son-in-law Jon and children Leigh and Ben; sister and brother-in-law Lucille and R.B. Head, Jr., and two nieces.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who knew and loved Mike Allen miss him dearly—but his presence continues to be felt in Whitesboro and in Sherman and in the hearts of his family and many friends. He leaves behind such wonderful memories of such an outstanding man and citizen—and such a remarkable legacy of caring and service that will be felt for many years to come.

As we approach Memorial Day and remember all those who gave their lives in service to their Nation, one of those that I will remember is my good friend Mike Allen, a man who answered the call to duty in World War II and who continued to answer the call to service to his community, his family, and his country throughout his exemplary and noble life. As we adjourn today, let us do so in memory of this great man and great American—E.T. "Mike" Allen.

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#### TRIBUTE TO IRWIN KISHNER

### HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 70th birthday of my dear friend, Irwin Kishner. Irwin is a premier captain of both industry and philanthropy in my hometown of Las Vegas, beginning his career there more than 4 decades ago.

Like me, Irwin is a native New Yorker, but his family's journey to Las Vegas took him on a less direct route to Florida first as a young teen. Graduating from the University of Florida in 1954, followed by the University of Miami School of Law in 1958, Las Vegas beckoned and Irwin relocated there in 1960. Ever since, he has been a leader in the Las Vegas community, intricately involved in the professional, civic and cultural aspects of not only Las Vegas, but Nevada as a whole.

Joining the Junior Chamber of Commerce upon his arrival in Las Vegas, Irwin was soon selected by the State of Nevada as one of the Outstanding Young Men of America. He served with distinction on the Las Vegas Chamber Board of Directors for 13 years, chairing committees and as Vice President of the Chamber. In 1999, his efforts on behalf of the Chamber were recognized when he was awarded the Greater Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce Community Achievement Award for Tourism.

Long before receiving that award, however, Irwin had been—and still is—at the forefront of the hotel/motel industry in Nevada, expanding an industry that provides so many jobs. In 1962, only two years after arriving in Las Vegas, Irwin opened the Somerset House Motel—a three story "high rise" with an Olympic-sized swimming pool. Also in 1962, he

joined the Rocky Mountain Hotel and Motel Association, which later evolved into the Utah-Nevada Hotel and Motel Association.

Irwin's forward thinking role with this Association enabled him to become one of the founding members of the Nevada Hotel and Motel Association (NH&MA), passionately developing the NH&MA through a variety of roles including Committee Chairman, Vice President and Member of the Board of Directors. Within the framework of NH&MA, Irwin has been a tireless champion for the Americans With Disabilities Act, working actively to ensure compliance of this Act by smaller properties. Irwin's many awards with the NH&MA include being named "Hotelier of the Year" and NH&MA's first Lifetime Service Award. Governor Kenny Guinn of Nevada has recently appointed Irwin to serve on the Governor's Commission on Tourism.

Irwin's accomplishments in this industry have not been limited to Las Vegas and Nevada. He has been very active in the American Hotel and Motel Association (AH&MA) over the years, serving on its Board of Directors representing Nevada since 1993. Also since the mid-1990s, he has been a member of the National Tourism and Travel Committee and was a founding member of the National Gaming Task Force. Irwin was also the Nevada Representative to the White House Conference on Tourism. He has represented both the AH&MA and the NH&MA in drafting a national tourism strategy for the 21st Century. Recognizing Irwin's outstanding contributions to the advancement of the lodging industry, the AH&MA presented Irwin with their prestigious Lawson A. Odde Award in 1997 and the Most Valuable Volunteer Award in 1999.

Irwin's commitment to his community does not stop at the industry and professional level. Through his time and generosity, he has provided community leadership and service to many civic and philanthropic groups throughout the city and the state. Irwin was a founding member of several organizations including the Boys and Girls Club of Clark County and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Center for the Performing Arts. The United Way of Southern Nevada utilized his services on their Board of Directors and Board of Trustees and he held many positions with the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Irwin has chaired a variety of committees for Child Haven and Opportunity Village over the years, and has worked as a volunteer administrator for the Clark County Juvenile Court Services, a Charter Member on the Board of Directors of Secret Witness and on the Board of Directors of the Southern Nevada Drug Abuse Council.

Irwin is a man of tremendous talent and energy! He is dedicated to his family. He has two lovely daughters, Joanna and Sharon, both of whom have followed in their father's footsteps as attorneys, and four grandchildren who adore him. I thank Irwin for all he has been to Las Vegas, Nevada, our country, his family and to me personally, and wish him the happiest of birthdays and many, many more in the best of health.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PERMIT REASONABLE COST REIMBURSEMENTS FOR EMERGENCY ROOM SERVICES PROVIDED BY FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS

**HON. ED CASE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to permit reasonable cost reimbursements for emergency room services provided by Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs).

We are all well aware of the important role FQHCs play in our medically underserved communities. FQHCs exist in areas where economic, geographic, or cultural barriers limit access to primary health care, and they tailor their services to community needs.

There are some FQHCs that go above and beyond the usual scope of services by not only providing primary and preventive care, but also meeting the emergency care needs in their communities. For these services, FQHCs are not currently eligible for reimbursement; they should be.

A great example is the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) in an underserved area of Oahu in Hawaii. The WCCHC is a community-owned and operated non-profit medical facility that serves an ever-growing population of approximately 50,000 residents. Around seventy percent of the WCCHC's patients live on incomes below the national poverty level. About seventy-five percent of all WCCHC patients do not have health insurance. Nearly fifty percent of the WCCHC's patients are of Native Hawaiian ancestry.

The WCCHC—which has been recognized for service excellence both locally and nationally—runs the only emergency medical facility on the Waianae Coast. The nearest alternative site for emergency medical care is twenty miles away. I am sure you will agree that this is quite a lengthy journey to make in a critical situation where every second matters. The WCCHC emergency room provides patients with the care they need close to home, in a facility with which they are familiar, and with a staff that both patients and families know and trust. In 1999 alone, the WCCHC emergency staff handled more than 12,000 cases.

FQHCs like the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center that provide these vital services should be able to receive reasonable reimbursements for the emergency care of their patients. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VOTER CONFIDENCE AND INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY ACT OF 2003

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing The Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2003.

After the Florida voting debacle of the 2000 election, we in Congress recognized that we

had to act to restore the integrity and reliability of our electoral system by making dimpled chads and other voting irregularities a thing of the past. Last October, we enacted the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), groundbreaking election reform legislation that is currently helping states throughout the country replace antiquated and unreliable punch cards and butterfly ballots. Early this month, the newly-formed New Jersey HAVA Commission held its first meeting. From those Commissioners and others I know, there is a great deal of enthusiasm about the increased Federal involvement in oversight, funding and guidance with respect to the conduct of elections for Federal office.

But HAVA could have an adverse, unintended consequence. It is fueling a headlong rush by states and localities to purchase computer voting systems that suffer from a serious flaw. It generates suspicion about the voting. You, the voter, have no way of knowing if your vote is recorded as you intended.

Imagine it's Election Day 2004. You enter your local polling place and cast your vote on a brand new "touch screen" voting machine. The screen is large and well lit, and your choices are clearly spelled out before you. In fact, it looks as easy to use as the ATM at your bank. You breathe a sigh of relief that you no longer have to figure out a complicated butterfly ballot or pull a lever. So you make a choice and touch the corresponding button to cast your vote. The screen says your vote has been counted. As you exit the voting booth, however, you begin to wonder: how do I know if the machine actually recorded my vote correctly. The fact is, you don't. No one knows.

That is why hundreds of nationally-renowned computer scientists, including David Dill of Stanford University, consider a voter-verified paper trail to be a critical safeguard for the accuracy, integrity and security of computer-assisted elections.

Without a physical record of votes cast, how will election officials in 2004 be able to launch an effective, honest recount in a closely contested election? How will they be able to ensure that a computer hacker has not tampered with votes?

Dr. Rebecca Mercuri, also a nationally renowned expert on this subject and a constituent of mine, asks on her website: "Think the November 5, 2002 US General Election went smoothly? Use your favorite Web engine and search for the words 'election' and 'glitch'—a recent scan on Google News turned up hundreds of disturbing press reports." Not all of these reported troubles were in Florida. They were in Texas, Alabama, Nevada, Georgia, California, South Carolina, Nebraska, and New Jersey. Voter News Service (VNS), the agency that provides exit poll data that might have been used as a cross-check against computerized returns, was coincidentally knocked out of service by an unidentified 'massive computer glitch' on Election Day as well. Many of the election problems (including those at VNS) occurred in spite of hundreds of millions of dollars (soon to be billions) spent on new equipment.

In the 2002 election, brand new computer voting systems used in Florida lost over 100,000 votes due to a software error. In New Jersey, several voting irregularities have been reported and, in one instance, a mainframe computer deployed to rapidly tally election results broke down entirely and had to be re-

placed in the last minute by bookkeepers using adding machines. In fact, in the 2000 election, it was also reported that in an election in South Brunswick in my congressional district, one new touch-screen machine simply did not record any votes at all for one Republican candidate and one Democratic candidate. The manufacturer was quoted in the Washington Post as saying "no votes were lost—they were just never registered." The election officials in charge were quoted as saying "it didn't matter whether the fault was the voters' or the machine's, the expected votes were gone."

In Georgia, the entire state voted on 22,000 brand new touch-screen machines purchased in 2001 at a cost of \$54 million. The Washington Post reported that when used in the November 2002 general election, "some people touched one candidate's name on the screen and saw another candidate's name appear as their choice. Voters who were paying attention had a chance to correct the error before finalizing their vote, but those who weren't did not." It is also disturbing to note that immediately prior to the election, a "patch" (a modification to the voting machines' software program) was installed on the new machines. Although the patch reportedly "was checked before it was installed," it also reportedly was not checked by election or certification officials. Nonetheless, the official who oversaw the statewide upgrade in Georgia declared that the voters were happy with how the system operated.

Maryland also installed new touch screen machines in five counties that were first used in the November 2002 general election. Again, the election official who oversaw the purchase of the new equipment was reported in the Washington Post as saying "the system performed flawlessly in two statewide elections. The public has a lot of confidence in it, and they love it." But, as Professor David Dill observes, "I'm not concerned with elections that are a mess. I'm concerned about elections that appear to go smoothly, and no one knows that it was all messed up inside the machine." A Maryland reporter wrote an article on exactly that danger, immediately after the November 2002 election, using the incident in which the computer betting system used in the Breeder's Cup Race was tampered with as a cautionary and analogous example.

Not all election officials want to rely on voting technology that produces no voter-verified record. Warren Slocum, Chief Elections Officer & Assessor-County Clerk/Recorder for San Mateo County, California actively and enthusiastically endorses the use of voting equipment that produces a voter-verified paper trail. He says, "the most naive argument against a paper trail is that the machines are accurate and tested properly before the election. It is argued that we don't need to worry about hackers, Trojan Horses or programming mistakes.... Surprisingly, some elections professionals say that touchscreen voting systems can be trusted. But when voters are given the choice, most say 'absolutely not.' And the computer scientists who have studied this issue say no way."

Across the country, in growing numbers, people are studying and reading about electronic voting and saying—"wait a minute ...."

With the 2004 election around the corner and states lining up to buy new computerized voting machines, Congress needs to act immediately before it's too late. We need to

make sure that voters receive a physical, paper verification of their votes. After all, voting should not be an act of faith. It should be an act of record.

That is why I am introducing this bill— The Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2003 — to amend HAVA to require a voter-verified record for all votes cast in federal elections. Under my bill, funds expended under HAVA will be utilized in a manner that ensures that this minimum standard of voter protection will be built into computer voting systems before the next general election.

Key provisions of my bill include:

1) A requirement that all voting systems produce a voter-verified paper record for use in manual audits. A system using optical scanning of cards marked by the voters is one acceptable version. For those using the increasingly popular direct recording electronic (DRE) voting machines (such as 'touch-screen' machines), this requirement means those machines would print a receipt that each voter would verify as accurate and deposit into a lockbox at the polling station for later use in a recount. States would have until November 2003 to request additional funds to meet this requirement.

(2) A ban on the use of undisclosed software and wireless communications devices in voting systems.

(3) A requirement that all voting systems meet these increased standards of protection in time for the general election in November 2004. Jurisdictions anticipating that their new computer systems may not be able to meet this deadline will be able to use a paper system, as an interim measure and at federal expense, in the November 2004 election.

(4) A requirement that electronic voting systems be provided for persons with disabilities by January 1, 2006—one year earlier than currently required by HAVA. Like the voting systems used by persons without disabilities, those used by disabled voters must also provide a mechanism for voter-verification, though not necessarily a paper trail. Jurisdictions unable to meet this requirement by the deadline must give disabled voters the option to use the interim paper system with the assistance of an aide of their choosing.

(5) A requirement of mandatory surprise recounts in 0.5 percent of domestic jurisdictions and 0.5 percent of overseas jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing more crucial to democracy than guaranteeing the integrity, fairness, and accuracy of elections. The election of 2000 was a fiasco, but unless this legislation is promptly enacted the election of 2004 could be a disaster.

#### VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Ms. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1683, the "Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2003."

Texas is the home of 1.8 million veterans. Of those, 40,998 veterans live in the 18th

Congressional District of Texas. That means 8.6 percent of the district's adult population is veteran.

These brave men and women have fought valiantly in our wars. They risked their lives to protect the freedoms that every American citizen holds dear. Every American owes every veteran a debt of gratitude. I support H.R.1683 because it is a means for this Chamber to show our appreciation for our veterans.

This legislation provides a financial boost to our deserving veterans. H.R. 1683 increases the disability compensation rates for veterans who have suffered injuries as a result of their service, and also increases the rates of compensation for dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain veterans. Furthermore, H.R. 1683 increases the compensation for veterans, their dependants, the clothing allowance, and dependency and indemnity for surviving spouses with minor children.

Our veterans have made immeasurable sacrifices for all Americans. H.R. 1683 ensures that veterans get the cost-of-living adjustment they need and deserve. This legislation will increase the compensation our veterans receive to offset the additional cost associated with inflation. This adjustment in compensation is very timely considering the present sluggishness of our economy.

More than 2 million veterans receive disability compensation each month as a result of injuries suffered in the course of military service. Nearly 600,000 spouses, children, and parents of veterans will also receive additional compensation and benefits as a result of H.R. 1683.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1683 is a bill that helps our heroic veterans live more comfortable lives. I support H.R. 1683 and I salute our veterans.

#### INTRODUCTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACT

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am today again introducing the Environmental Justice Act. I am proud that my colleague Congresswoman HILDA SOLIS is once again joining me as an original cosponsor of this bill.

Representative SOLIS and I first introduced this bill last year, too late for consideration in the 107th Congress. Its reintroduction today reflects our continued concern about the way federal actions have had disproportionately adverse effects on the health, environment and quality of life of Americans in minority and lower-income communities.

Too often these communities—because of their low income or lack of political visibility—are exposed to greater risks from toxins and dangerous substances because it has been possible to locate waste dumps, industrial facilities, and chemical storage warehouses in these communities with less care than would be taken in other locations.

The sad fact is that in some eyes these communities have appeared as expendable—without full appreciation that human beings, who deserve to be treated with respect and

dignity, are living, working, and raising families there.

This needs to give way to policies focused on providing clean, healthy and quality environments within and around these communities. When that happens, we provide hope for the future and enhance the opportunities that these citizens have to improve their condition.

Our bill would help do just that. The bill essentially codifies an Executive Order that was issued by President Clinton in 1994. That order required all federal agencies to incorporate environmental justice considerations in their missions, develop strategies to address disproportionate impacts to minority and low-income people from their activities, and coordinate the development of data and research on these topics.

Although federal agencies have been working to implement this order and have developed strategies, there is clearly much more to do. We simply cannot solve these issues overnight or even over a couple of years. We need to "institutionalize" the consideration of these issues in a more long-term fashion—which this bill would do.

In addition, just as the current policy was established by an administrative order, it could be swept away with a stroke of an administrative pen. To avoid that, we need to make it more permanent—which is also what this bill would do.

It would do this by statutorily requiring all federal agencies to—make addressing environmental justice concerns part of their missions; develop environmental justice strategies; evaluate the effects of proposed actions on the health and environment of minority, low-income, and Native American communities; avoid creating disproportionate adverse impacts on the health or environment of minority, low-income, or Native American communities; and collect data and carry out research on the effects of facilities on health and environment of minority, low-income, and Native American communities.

It would also statutorily establish two committees: the Interagency Environmental Justice Working Group, set up by the Executive Order to develop strategies, provide guidance, coordinate research, convene public meetings, and conduct inquiries regarding environmental justice issues; and a Federal Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, appointed by the President, including members of community-based groups, business, academic, state agencies and environmental organizations. It will provide input and advice to the Interagency Working Group.

In a nutshell, what this bill would do is require federal agencies that control the siting and disposing of hazardous materials, store toxins or release pollutants at federal facilities, or issue permits for these kinds of activities to make sure they give fair treatment to low-income and minority populations—including Native Americans. The bill tells federal agencies, "In the past these communities have endured a disproportionate impact to their health and environment. Now we must find ways to make sure that won't be the case in the future."

For the information of our colleagues, here is a short analysis of the bill:

#### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACT

Summary: This bill would essentially codify a Clinton Administration Executive Order which directed a number of federal agencies

and offices to consider the environmental impact of decisions on minority and low-income populations.

Background: On February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations." The President also issued a corresponding Memorandum to all federal departments and agencies further explaining the order and how the agencies should implement it to address environmental justice issues. The Order and Memorandum called for the creation of an interagency working group to provide guidance on identifying disproportionate impacts on the health and environment of minority and low-income populations, develop strategies to address such disproportionate impacts, and provide a report on that strategy. Since the order was promulgated, the affected agencies have developed reports and strategies.

Need for the Bill: Although federal agencies and offices have been complying with the Executive Order, disproportionate impacts related to human health and the environment still exist for many minority and low-income communities. These impacts must be addressed over the long term. In addition, due to the lack of resources and political clout of many of these impacted communities, vigilance is required to make sure that disproportionate impacts are reduced and do not continue. As the effort to date has been primarily administrative based on the presidential order and memorandum, these strategies need to be incorporated into the routine functioning of federal agencies and offices through federal law.

The bill—Requires federal agencies and offices to: include addressing environmental justice concerns into their respective missions; conduct programs so as not to create disproportionate impact on minority and low-income populations; include an examination of the effects of such action on the health and environment of minority and low-income populations for actions that require environmental analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act; create an environmental justice strategy to address disproportionate impacts of its policies and actions, and conduct and collect research on the disproportionate impacts from federal facilities.

Creates an Interagency Environmental Justice Working Group to develop strategies, provide guidance, coordinate research, convene public meetings, and conduct inquires regarding environmental justice issues.

Creates a Federal Environmental Justice Advisory Committee composed of members of community-based groups, business, academic, state agencies and environmental organizations which will provide input and advice to the Interagency Working Group.

SELECTED RESERVE HOME LOAN  
EQUITY ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1257, the "Selected Reserve Home Loan Equity Act."

The Selected Reserves are the reserve forces of the various branches of the military. Each branch of our Armed Forces, the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, have Selected Reserve Corps. Additionally, Coast Guard Reserves, as well as the Army National Guard and the Air Guard have Selected Reserve Corps.

In Texas, the Selected Reserve Corps is thriving. Texas has 1.35 million volunteers serving in the Guard and Selected Reserve Corps. Of those, 8,370 members are serving in the Coast Guard Selected Reserve

While the Selected Reserves don't get the accolades rightfully showered upon our Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines, they provide invaluable service to our country. Since 1990, there have been 99 major commitments of Americans in uniform. In each of these conflicts, both active duty and Selective Reserve Corps have been deployed to virtually every corner of the globe.

H.R. 1257 amends Title 38 of the United States Code, "to make permanent the authority for qualifying members of the Selected Reserve to have access to home loans guaranteed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and to provide for uniformity in fees charged qualifying members of the Selected Reserve and active duty veterans for such home loans."

I support H.R. 1257 because it is a way for this body to thank our Select Reservists the same way we thank the brave veteran men and women who have served their country so valiantly. The Department of Veterans Affairs provides our active and inactive military personnel with various services and benefits. One of the benefits provided is guaranteed home loans at reasonable fees.

Presently, members of the Selected Reserves are eligible for Department of Veterans Affairs loans. However, the current program is scheduled to expire at the end of fiscal year 2009. Moreover, Selected Reservists pay a higher fee on guaranteed home loans than do active duty veterans. H.R. 1257 grants Selected Reservists permanent access to guaranteed home loans just as like veterans. Selected Reservists will also be eligible for the same fee structure as veterans.

Our Selected Reservists are an important part of our exemplary military, and are integral to protecting our homeland and bringing peace throughout the world. Providing our military personnel, including members of the Selected Reserve with access to economically beneficial programs like guaranteed loans is one small way to thank them for their service.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 1257, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
LARRY COMBEST

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROY BLUNT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2003*

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate LARRY COMBEST on his nearly twenty years of service for the people of Texas. He has had a wonderful career helping others at the local level, helping others as a Congressman and helping others as the Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee.

He has served this House of Representatives and our country well. He will be truly missed.

As a freshman member I had the pleasure of serving with LARRY on the Agriculture Committee. During this time, I found him to be a wealth of information regarding agriculture policy and I relied on him heavily on many issues that were debated in the committee. As Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, Larry made great efforts to consider the diversity of America's agriculture, which helped us to create a broad and sensible agricultural policy.

Larry has traveled to southwest Missouri to meet with students and to seek advice from farmers where I live. He has worked tirelessly for the future of agriculture in America.

One of the best examples of this effort is found in "The Farm Security Act of 2002". In developing this landmark legislation, LARRY organized numerous field hearings throughout the country in an attempt to understand what America needed in sound farm policy. He also felt that it was necessary to talk to farmers and local people seeking grassroots advice. As a result of this Chairman COMBEST helped develop a road map that will improve agriculture policy and help secure the future of our Nation.

I stand here today to congratulate Chairman COMBEST on his years of service and to wish LARRY and Sharon the best as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

HONORING BISHOP LAWRENCE L.  
KIRBY

**HON. PAUL RYAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop Lawrence L. Kirby of Racine, Wisconsin for the spiritual leadership that he has provided to the members of the St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church and the positive influence that he has had on Racine's African American community.

For the past 22 years, Bishop Kirby has served as the Senior Pastor at St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church, the oldest African-American church in the State of Wisconsin. Under his leadership, St. Paul's has grown significantly, evolving into one of the largest and most influential churches in the State. A visionary leader, Bishop Kirby has implemented a series of progressive assistance and developmental programs that serve the needs of the entire community. He has also founded numerous faith-based community organizations and has been called to preach around the world, spreading a message of faith, tolerance and compassion.

Throughout his career, Bishop Kirby has remained steadfastly dedicated to helping others and he has not wavered in his commitment to his family, his church, his community and God. His generous actions have touched the lives of the less fortunate, filling their hearts with love and inspiring them to succeed. The citizens of Wisconsin's First Congressional District are fortunate to have been blessed with this wonderful, caring and compassionate man. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Bishop Lawrence L. Kirby for his efforts to make the world a better place in which to live.

CONGRATULATIONS NEIL  
JOHNSTON

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Mr. Neil C. Johnston for his achievements in conservation and environmental education programs. Earlier this week, Neil received a National Wetlands Award for education/outreach from the Environmental Law Institute. The awards are presented annually to those who have dedicated their time and expertise to wetlands conservation and restoration.

Neil is an attorney from Mobile, Alabama. Not only does Neil practice in the fields of forestry and federal environmental law professionally, he is also personally involved with the environment. He speaks at and conducts seminars, as well as speaking to local school children.

Neil is the director of the Project CATE (Conservation Action Through Education) Foundation, Inc., which produces and distributes interactive conservation and environmental education programs. Ribbit's Big Splash is an award winning CD-ROM program which is designed to educate students about various aspects of water in environments such as ponds, rivers, wetlands, and gulfs. Project CATE plans to have more CD-ROM programs for students which will include air, soil, energy, and recycling. The programs are designed for the use of children in kindergarten through fifth grade. Through stories, projects, games, and interactive activities, children can learn about the environment and conservation in their local, state, and regional areas.

I am especially proud of Neil Johnston's achievements and his important contributions to the First District and its surrounding areas. His work as a conservationist and environmental educator has taught many children in my district, as well as others in the region. Thanks to his work, children have become more active in learning about water, and soon they will be able to learn about other aspects of our environment as his programs are completed and distributed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in congratulating Mr. Johnston for his hard work and dedication that has earned him this prestigious award, as well as for his commitment to teaching children about our environment.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO COLONEL  
DANNY P. PRICE FOR HIS DEDICATED  
SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES ARMY

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Army Colonel Danny P. Price. Given the current international environment, it is fitting that this chamber honors a man of Colonel Price's character. Colonel Price entered the Army on September 14, 1972. He served two years during his first tour as an enlisted ad-

ministrative specialist. He re-entered the Army in 1977 and received his commission from the United States Army Officer Candidate School in 1978. His military education includes the U.S. Army Signal Officer Basic Communications Course, the U.S. Army Field Artillery Basic Communications Staff Officer Course, the U.S. Marine Corps Advanced Communications Officer Course, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the U.S. Army Force Management School, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Morehead State University (Kentucky), a Master of Education degree from the University of South Carolina, and a Master of Science degree from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Colonel Price has served in a variety of command and staff positions. He was a field artillery signal officer, platoon leader, and signal battalion staff officer in the 82nd Airborne Division from 1978 to 1982. From 1983 to 1986, he served in the 8th Mechanized Infantry Division, Bad Kreuznach, Germany, where he was a signal battalion staff officer and Commander, Company A, 8th Signal Battalion. His next assignment was at the United States Military Academy where he served as a company and battalion tactical officer from 1987 to 1990. He then served as the battalion executive officer with the 50th Signal Battalion and the 35th Signal Brigade (logistics officer) and S3 (operations officer).

He next served as an operations analyst in the Commander-in-Chief Initiatives Group, U.S. Forces Korea from 1994 to 1995. He then commanded the 501st Signal Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) from 1995 to 1997. The assignment was followed by his most recent assignments—two tours in the Pentagon. First, as a Systems Integrator in the Force Development Division of the U.S. Army Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, from 1997 to 1998; and second, as a Senior Staff Analyst in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command and Control, Communications, and Intelligence. He served in this position from June 1999 and will retire from there in June 2003.

His awards and decorations include: the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with one silver oak leaf cluster and two bronze oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Secretary of Defense Staff Qualification Badge, the Army Staff Qualification Badge, the Air Assault Badge, the Master Parachutist Badge, and the Ranger Tab.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Colonel Danny Price. Our citizens are served well by having such honorable and selfless soldiers, like Colonel Price, who care about their well being and stability. We wish Colonel Price, his wife, Jill, and their family all the best as we pay tribute to one of our nation's finest soldiers. May he now enjoy the freedom he so ably defended

UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP  
AGAINST HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS,  
AND MALARIA ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2003*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this critical bill. This important legislation integrates prevention, care, and treatment. By passing the conference report on H.R. 1298 we can directly improve and extend the lives of millions worldwide. I think every member owes a special thanks to the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the ranking Democrat on the International Relations Committee and to the Gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for their outstanding leadership on this landmark legislation.

I want to express my most sincere gratitude to the Chairman of the International Relations Committee, my colleague from Illinois (Chairman HYDE). He has demonstrated incredible leadership and a commitment to placing science above ideology by supporting a bill that will provide the resources necessary to promote effective strategies and technologies in the battle against HIV/AIDS. These technologies include the use of condoms, a measure that is effective in preventing transmission of the virus and should be used more frequently. This bill provides for education on the use of condoms, along with the teaching of abstinence and faithfulness to one's spouse. We must never allow our own personal ideologies to get in the way of our efforts to save lives.

Another meaningful aspect of this legislation is that it contributes to the Global Fund, indicating the interest of this Nation and this body in working with the international community to fight this global problem. I hope that such cooperation will be extended to other healthcare matters and critical issues currently facing this Nation.

The provision of aid to Haiti is of particular interest to me. I recently visited Haiti. It is the fourth poorest country in the world. The average Haitian lives on \$1.39 dollars a day. I was shocked by the suffering I witnessed during my visit. Ninety percent of all HIV and AIDS infections in the Caribbean are in Haiti. Tragically, death from HIV/AIDS has left 163,000 children in Haiti orphaned. In Haiti, where only 1 in every 10,000 citizens has access to a physician, and where cases of TB are more than ten times as high as those in other Latin American countries, the population will benefit profoundly from this legislation.

AIDS has ravaged the globe, causing unprecedented death and suffering, and the virus is a global threat that must be addressed as such. We have had significant discussion about the need to undertake all possible actions at our disposal when addressing emerging threats. AIDS is indeed a well established threat to the health and security of the world. The fight against HIV/AIDS is a fight for humanity.

In addressing this worldwide pandemic, we must also work together to provide countries with life-saving and extending drugs. These drugs are the difference between a baby in Africa having a chance to know his or her mother or father or being orphaned before they can

speaking or walking. We cannot allow pharmaceutical companies or government policies to construct barriers to treatment, such as complicated trade strategies and patent practices that make it difficult or impossible for nations to obtain the medicines they need to treat their populations at a price they can afford. We

must make sure our dollars are stretched as far as they can go by lowering the price of drugs. We must also demand that the international community, including the corporate community, matches our efforts.

Finally, this measure is only an authorization bill. It is a critically important step. But it will

be meaningless unless all members follow through on the commitment we are making today and adequately fund this measure through the appropriations process. I pledge my support to that effort.

Passage of H.R. 1298 is long overdue. I urge all members to support this bill.