

blood and all the things that go on in a hospital that require electricity? We did it deliberately. And the President says, well, we had to wage this war because they had these weapons of mass destruction that were an imminent threat to us. We had destroyed their electrical system. We destroyed all kinds of things. We had reduced the value of their money.

I mean, I carry a 250 Dinar note in my wallet just to remind me of what this country can do. This is a 250 Dinar note. These are printed in Iraq. This was worth \$875 in 1991; today, 12 cents. Do the Members think we did not crush their economy? Of course we did. And it was all because we wanted to bring them democracy, because we were going to free the world from weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Speaker, I think we ought to have an inquiry in this House, conducted in public, as to what the President knew, when he knew it. How could he come to the well of the House and give us information that was known to be forgery about nuclear material?

It is time, Mr. President, when the picnic is over, you had better come up here and tell us the truth.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind all Members to address their remarks to the Chair.

FILNER-McHUGH LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS EQUITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation with the gentleman from the State of New York (Mr. McHUGH). The purpose of our bill, called The Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act, H.R. 2442, is simply stated: Give law enforcement status to law enforcement officers.

Many Federal officials, for example, the Border Patrol, are classified as law enforcement officers because that is a classification that comes with certain salary and retirement benefits. But many other officers, officer who are trained to carry weapons, who wear body armor, who face the same daily risk as law enforcement officers are not so classified. These officers, for example, inspectors who work for the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement under the Department of Homeland Security, Veterans Affairs police officers, U.S. Mint police officers, Internal Revenue Service officers, and police officers in about two dozen other agencies, are not eligible for early retirement and other benefits designed to maintain a young and vigorous law enforcement workforce that we need to combat those who pose life-threatening risks to our society.

The tragic irony, Mr. Speaker, is that the only time these officers are classified as law enforcement officers is when they are killed in the line of duty. Then their names are inscribed on the wall of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial right here in Washington.

□ 1630

Let me say that again. It is only when they are killed that they are called law enforcement officers, and that is a tragic irony.

My district encompasses the entire California-Mexico border and is home to two of the busiest world border crossings in the entire world, so I am very familiar with the work of border inspectors. They wear bulletproof vests, they carry firearms, and, unfortunately, have to use them. Most importantly, these inspectors are subject to the same risks as other officers with whom they serve side by side and who do have the benefits of law enforcement status.

Our Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act will make important strides toward ensuring the safety of our country as these officers protect our borders, our ports of entry, our military and veterans installations and other sensitive government buildings. The bill ensures the strong and vigorous workforce necessary for our country to have the finest level of protection. Our country deserves no less, and these valiant officers who protect us deserve no less.

Any cost created by this act is offset by savings in training costs and increased revenue collection. A 20-year retirements bill for these employees will reduce turnover, increase yield, decrease recruitment, and development costs and enhance the retention of a well-trained and experienced workforce.

Mr. Speaker, the simple fact is that these officers have dangerous jobs and deserve to be recognized as law enforcement officers, just like others with whom they serve, side by side, and who share the same level of risk. I encourage my colleagues to join the gentleman from New York (Mr. McHUGH) and me in cosponsoring H.R. 2442, the Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFazio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KING of Iowa addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RUSH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. BIGGERT addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. LOFGREN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ILLEGAL ALIENS TAKING AMERICAN JOBS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, a great deal of discussion has been undertaken on this floor for the purpose of addressing the issue of unemployment and for talking about the needs of workers in the United States.

We continually look at pieces of legislation that are designed to improve the economic conditions within the

country, to establish an environment in which people will be able and businesses would be able to create more jobs, to provide more jobs for Americans; and I certainly support the effort.

I certainly believe with all my heart that that is what we should be doing, and I believe in the stimulus package that we passed here. I wish it had been bigger. I think that that is the right direction for the country.

But it is also interesting to me to listen to the various interpretations of the problems that we have that are in fact causing people to be laid off or people who are and have been laid off to be unable to find jobs. Some of that is undoubtedly as a result of a sluggish economy, and I say I hope it will be helped by the passage of the legislation that we put through here and went over to the Senate and was signed by the President. I hope for that.

But there is another aspect of this jobs issue that I think needs our attention, no matter how unpleasant it is to talk about it. No matter how much we want to shy away from it, no matter what the political implications of discussing it might be, I think it is important to talk about the fact that in this country today we have somewhere around 13 million, some people say as high as 20 million, people who are living here illegally, employed here illegally.

We all probably know of folks that we think may be working here illegally. We see them on the street corner, we see them working in various positions and jobs, and there is this feeling that I wonder if those folks are here legally. They probably cannot speak the language, and you just wonder whether or not they are.

We all have seen that kind of thing, and we think it is anecdotal, we think it is unique to a particular area, a particular place, just to this restaurant or that particular construction site. But, of course, it is not unique to any locale in this country. It is a phenomenon that we have to address and have to understand, that these people are here.

For the most part I am sure they are well intentioned. They came, as we always say, for the same reason that my grandparents came, and for the same reason people came to this country from its inception, and that is to better their lives. No one is suggesting that all of those people who are here are here for nefarious purposes. That is, of course, untrue. But it is also true that they are taking jobs that Americans could take.

Now I hear the opposite often. I have been in various places where the mantra chanted is something like this: "We have to have illegal immigration into the country because it helps us, it helps the economy, and we have people doing jobs that no one else would do, no American would do."

Well, there is another part of that statement that could be said, but is seldom said, and that is they are doing jobs that maybe no American would do

for the price that someone is willing to pay. That may be true. But I suggest to you that it is not an economic benefit to the United States.

In the long run, it does not even help the people who are in the lowest economic category, who are low-income earners, who are low-skilled people. It does not help them to have millions of people coming into the country, themselves with very few skills, taking those jobs that may be available, and, of course, therefore depressing the wage rate for everybody who works in that particular area.

Now, there is also the issue, of course, as to whether or not it is productive for the country because it adds to the economy and they pay taxes and we, therefore, are benefited by having so many illegal aliens in the country.

I would suggest that if you think that is true, if anybody believes that to be true, they should look at the research that has been done recently.

Certainly Virginia Abernathy comes to mind. She is a professor at Vanderbilt University and has done a lot of work on this issue, trying to determine whether or not in fact the country does benefit from having millions of people coming across this border illegally, taking jobs that other Americans could take. And she sums it up in a statement that I would paraphrase in this way. She says that it is indeed true that there are profits to be made by the importation of millions of low-skilled, low-wage workers into the country, but the profits are for a few. They are for the employer. But the costs that we incur for providing the infrastructure necessary to support those folks in terms of schooling, health care, housing, all of those costs are far greater, far greater, than we gain from the taxes paid by the people working in those particular jobs.

For the most part, again, it is low-skilled, low-wage jobs. Therefore, of course, they do not pay very much in income tax, if anything. They do not pay very much even in sales tax. They buy relatively little in comparison again to the costs of the infrastructure; and, therefore, it becomes essentially a burden to the taxpayers of this country to support.

The infrastructure is very costly. We are watching hospitals go out of business. We are watching costs increase dramatically for those people who are able to pay in order to take care of all those who cannot pay that come to the hospital for service, come into the health care system at any point for service.

There is a Federal law that says to hospitals they must treat anyone in emergency care, regardless of their status in the country; and that is a humane action on our part. It would be acceptable, it would be understandable, it would be defensible to have policies like that if in fact the Federal Government cared one bit about trying to defend its own borders, if in fact the Federal Government actually attempted to

restrict entry into this country to those people who have permission to come, to those people who apply through a consular office or embassy, get a visa, come into the country, obtain a green card eventually.

There is a legal process to come into the country; and if we would simply restrict entrance into the country to those people, then you could understand why we could say to hospitals, you must in fact treat them. Then you could understand why the Federal Government tells all schools in the United States, every State, that they must educate the children of people who are here illegally. It is a humane thing to do.

But under the circumstances, when we choose not to defend our own borders, when we choose to essentially ignore any sort of immigration policy enforcement, then it is the height of arrogance to tell States they must take on this task.

Billions of dollars are being spent by States all over the Nation trying to pay for health care, education, housing and all of the other infrastructure costs that they incur as a result of our open borders policy. And that is what we have; and that is exactly what we should call it. It is an open borders policy.

Again, I know we do not like to think it, do not want to say it, do not want to suggest it, because there are a lot of people out there, that maybe John Q. Citizen cringes at that and says what do you mean, open borders policy, man? I am trying to keep my job, and I do not want to necessarily have to compete against someone coming across the border willing to work for a lot less than I am making.

Maybe that is heartless and cruel for them to think. We may want to tell these people that they should just simply accept the fact that they have to give up their job, or work for a lot less, be what we call underemployed, because, after all, there are millions of people seeking to come into this country who are also poor and looking for a better life. So there is this dilemma then, how do we treat it?

Well, Mr. Speaker, the whole world, the Third World, is waiting to come in. There are literally billions of people who would like to improve their status in life, and I would like their lives to be improved. No one wants to see people living in poverty. No one wants to see small children dying from diseases that could be cured. No one wants to see that.

I also know that we cannot, there are not enough resources in this country, to simply open the borders and say everyone can come. What we have to do is try our best to create economic conditions in countries that are today laboring under such problems so that people will not be forced to leave and seek a life in another country. That is an acceptable and understandable way to do it. It is not understandable or acceptable to ignore the problem, to say

that John Q. Citizen, who is losing his job, that he is just simply being hard and xenophobic.

I do not think he is being xenophobic when his job is taken away, or her job. I think he is doing exactly, or she is doing exactly, what any of us would do under the circumstances. We would ask our government, why is this happening? Why are you allowing so many people to come into the country at a time when we have so few jobs available, when the unemployment rate has now reached historic highs?

I cannot answer the question, Mr. Speaker. There is no way that I can tell someone in a rational sense what our policy is and why we are in fact still accepting the concept of open borders. I do not know. If someone can explain it, please let me know, because I have a lot of letters to write to people who constantly write me and tell me of their plight and how they lost their job, and they have lost it to people who have just come across the border illegally; and they are asking what I am going to do about that. I have to explain to them, you know, there really does not seem to be any support in this body or in this government for implementing the kind of measures necessary to protect them.

We are actually taking in a million-and-a-half people approximately a year legally, and probably about that many illegally. This is historic. The United States of America, if we just settled on the legal side of that, is still the most open-hearted country in the world.

□ 1645

It accepts more illegal immigration than any other country in the world; more legal immigration, and certainly more illegal immigration, than any other country in the world, and this is to our detriment.

This is not a beneficial thing. It is not helping our economy. That is an old saw. It is not true. It is helping a few people. It is helping a few corporations. That is true. But it is not helping the man and the woman who have been here all of their lives, or who have become citizens of this country through a legal process and who are unemployed today because of our policy of open borders.

There are several programs that the Federal Government runs, visa programs, that are designed to bring more people in, to do jobs that again we are told cannot be done by Americans, by American citizens. Would my colleagues believe that we are told that there are millions of jobs going begging in the high-tech industry?

Who would believe that, Mr. Speaker? I ask my colleagues, who knows of a job available in the high-tech industry that is going begging? Because again, if my colleagues know about jobs that are available, let me know. I have a lot of people in my district who are unemployed and have been unemployed for over a year, and they ended up being a victim of that bubble that

burst in the high-tech industry, and they are looking for jobs, and they would love to get reemployed into that industry. But most of them are doing something else now entirely, if they are working at all.

My friend and neighbor, it has been almost 2 years for him. He is doing some data entry for us and he is driving a limousine at night. And that is what is happening all over, of course, because people are trying to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table. And they would love to get a job back in that industry. But, Mr. Speaker, we are encouraging people to come from other countries to the United States for the purpose of taking jobs in the high-tech industry. These are called H-1b visa recipients.

Now, these are folks who are not coming over here to take a job that "no one else would take," although we are told that, and that is supposed to be the scheme; that is supposed to be the idea behind H-1b and something else called L-1 visa programs, but it is not true. It is not true. These people are taking jobs, they are displacing American workers, by the hundreds of thousands. There are literally millions of folks in this country today holding these kinds of visas.

Now, we asked the INS, how many are here? No one knows how many people in this country have even come here through the H-1b visa program. The new Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Service does not know. The Department of Labor does not know. No one in government anywhere can give me an accurate number, and the reason they cannot is because they do not keep those numbers. All they know is how many they hand out, about 195,000 a year we have handed out for several years now, and that is just the H-1b, and these folks do not go home when they lose their job, although they are supposed to. They stay.

So I am saying that it is now approaching a million people, if not more, that are here under an H-1b program that are taking jobs in "that high-tech industry that no other American would take." Does anybody really buy that?

What we know is that they are being given these visas because they will work for less. It is a cheap labor program.

Now, let us just say it. If that is the program we want to run, let us tell Americans that is the program. Let us not even hide it under visa titles like H-1b and things nobody has the slightest idea what H-1b means or L-1 visas. I will tell my colleagues what it means, anybody who is listening: it is a cheap labor program. People want to pay less for labor. They know there are people outside the country who are willing to work for less, so let us get them in here.

The Organization for the Rights of American Workers, the acronym TORAW, states that in the year 2000, there were 355,000 H-1b visas issued,

just in the year 2000. The cap for H-1b visas in that year was 115,000. That means that 240,000 received H-1b visas through loopholes and extensions. In 2001, 384,191 H-1b visas were issued. The cap was 107,500. That means that 276,691 people received H-1b visas through loopholes and extensions. Thus, the total amount of people who came here using H-1b visas in 2000 and 2001 totaled 739,796.

This is a program they told us would be short-lived, that it only was going to be there in order to take up the slack because we had this booming economy, we had so many jobs going begging. Has anybody heard that lately, something about a booming economy, something about jobs going begging? But 739,000 people were brought in here on H-1b visas in 2000 and 2001.

There is plenty of evidence that major American companies like Bank of America, Texas Instruments, Intel, General Electric, and Microsoft are actively recruiting today H-1b visa holders instead of American high-tech workers. Does anybody believe there are people who are not capable of these jobs; that Americans, the highest skilled, the greatest educational system in the world, touted constantly for our ability to produce the best engineers; the best people in this high-tech environment, that we are not capable, Americans cannot do the job, we have to go to India or someplace else to get the folks over here to take those jobs from us.

The San Francisco Business Times reported in November of 2002 that the Bank of America was eliminating 900 jobs by year end in its information technology operation. To add insult to injury, some of the laid-off workers were reportedly required to train their Indian counterparts in order to receive their severance packages. This is a common practice throughout the country.

According to a survey by the Denver Business Journal, 66.5 percent of American high-tech workers who responded said they took salary reductions in 2002, and more than 71.5 percent of them expect pay cuts in 2003. According to the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, or IEEE, a company can replace an American engineer who gets paid \$70,000 annually with a Hungarian who would earn \$25,690 in Hungary or a Russian who gets paid \$14,000 for that job in Russia. This puts companies in the position to orchestrate and control salaries. The overall effect is to decrease the salaries of all high-tech positions.

Now, we say, well, is that not appropriate? Should they not do that? Well, again, that is a policy decision that this government needs to make and needs to tell the American citizens what we are doing. Again, all I am asking is for truth in advertising. These are not special visa programs; these are not designed just to bring people in here who are in great need because the jobs are jobs our people will not do.

These are cheap labor, cheap labor policies. That is what they are, and that is what we should call them.

Now, these people are succeeding, these companies, according to the Alumni Consulting Group, because in the last 3 years, the average high-tech professional salary has dropped radically, in some cases, up to 50 percent. An online search today of the three most popular high-tech job search sites, hotjobs.com, monster.com, and dice.com, showed that they were full of jobs being offered to H-1b holders.

Now there is a new problem that is emerging, the L-1 visa. The L-1 visa program allows intracompany transfers of foreign nationals who are company executives or managers or employees with specialized knowledge of the company's products or services. It was never intended to allow companies to replace American professional employees with lower-wage foreign nationals, but guess what? That is, of course, exactly what is happening, and on a massive scale.

NBC news reported on May 8 of this year that white collar computer consultants are losing out to cheaper foreign competition. These companies are outsourcing much of their technology and customer service work to foreign companies with the goal of reducing costs and increasing profits. I would suspect that these foreign companies are using L-1 visas to bring their manpower here to the United States.

As I said before, the L-1 visa program was intended to permit multinational companies to transfer foreign nationals who were company executives and managers or employees with specialized knowledge in the company's products and operations. Instead, it is being used to allow U.S. companies with offshore subsidiaries to bring in lower-wage IT workers. These companies are circumventing the congressionally-mandated safeguards and rules imposed under the H-1b program. And our government knows it. This is not news to anybody inside the Department of Labor or inside the administration. They just do not care.

In 2001, 328,480 L-1 visas were issued, which is an increase of 11 percent. Thus, the total amount of people who came here under L-1 visas in 2000 and 2001 was 623,138.

Business Week reported on March 10 of this year that L-1 visas were being used instead of H-1b visas by India's top two IT consulting firms. Half of Tata Consultancy Services' American-based workforce are here on L-1 visas, some 5,000 foreign IT professionals. Infosys has 3,000 IT professionals here on L-1 visas, 3,000.

Now, remember, these are supposed to be people with specialized skills, so specialized, and they are overseas, they are in the company headquarters in Bombay, but there is something so special about their ability that they have to bring them over here to work in their subsidiary. That is an L-1 visa. But of course, it is not that. It is any-

body and everybody who they can get into the country, get over here to replace Americans who are now driving limousines at night.

Siemens in Florida contracted to have 20 of its American IT professionals replaced by foreign nationals brought in by Tata Consultancy Services. Tata used L-1 visas to import Indians at one-third of the salary of Americans laid off.

A member of my staff is a trained IT professional. Before he started working for me, he was a victim of the very problem I was talking about. When he asked his former company why he and the rest of his IT team had been laid off, they stated they were moving their project to India. They are doing this because the average Indian software engineer makes 88 percent less than the U.S. software engineer.

Companies are not the only ones guilty of this transgression. The State of New Mexico paid a firm in India \$6 million to develop an online unemployment claim system. The State of New Jersey called a call center in India to handle calls from their welfare recipients. In New Jersey, calls go to India. The State of Pennsylvania Department of Corrections utilized an offshore company to develop its mission critical systems.

All of this shifting of jobs offshore has significantly slowed the recovery of our own economy, and it is something that we should tell our people about. This is something we should be truthful about. And these are all high-tech jobs I have been talking about recently. But remember, go back to the original discussion here about the people coming in here with low-skill, low-wage backgrounds and how much we need them.

Mr. Speaker, I remember distinctly, this may be now 6 or 8 months ago, but I remember an article that I read in the Rocky Mountain Newspaper in Denver, and there was an article, it was not an ad, it was an article about a job that had been posted by a restaurant by the name of, it was called Luna Restaurant. I know it, I have been there many times; a great Mexican restaurant in north Denver.

□ 1700

The reason why the posting of a job became a story rather than just an ad in the paper is because it was a job for a \$3-an-hour waiter; and that one job posting, that one ad produced 600 applicants the first day. That is why it turned into a story, a news story, 600 applicants for a \$3-an-hour job.

Mr. Speaker, it is possible, I suppose, that every one of the 600 applicants that day were illegal aliens, but I do not think so. Maybe a large number were, but I think a lot of the people who applied for that job were American citizens who needed the work.

So this old canard about they only come into the jobs no American will take is just that, it is a falsehood. We employ these falsehoods in order to

maintain open borders. Both parties support the concept. The Democrats support it because it adds to their potential pool of voters for the Democratic Party. The Republicans support it because it supports cheap labor.

I will tell my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, if that is the policy that our government is undertaking, then it is simply the policy we should tell our constituents about. We should explain it to them. When my colleagues get a letter like this, handwritten, three pages long, talking about what happened to them, how they were displaced by foreign workers, we should write back and say it is the policy of this government to displace you, to move you into a lower economic income category because we believe in cheap labor and we believe that the politics of open borders helps our party, in this case the Democrats, as I say. The Republicans, it is the cheap labor side of things.

That is what we tell people. That is what we should do. That is how we should respond because that is the truth of the matter; and I hope that when we have people bring bills to the floor designed to do something about jobs, which we hear over and over again, do something about jobs, I just hope that they will think about one thing they could do. There is something that we could do tomorrow to improve the quality of life for millions and millions of American citizens. There is something that we could do tomorrow that could actually add maybe 10 million jobs for American citizens, and that is to enforce our immigration laws. Stop people from coming in here illegally, deport the people who are here illegally today, and we would automatically create 10 million jobs for American citizens.

So I want that discussed every single time there is a "jobs" bill brought in front of this Congress, because there is an easy way to do it. There is a moral way to do it. It is immoral for us to, in fact, displace American workers with cheap labor from outside our country. It is immoral for us to tell Americans that we do not have an open borders policy because we do, and there are ramifications to it, deep, serious ramifications to open borders.

If that is what the country wants, if 50 percent plus one of this body and the other body and the President of the United States signs it, that is what we will get; but that is what we are going to get. Even that does not happen that way. We are going to get it in a de facto way. We are going to get it without ever bringing it to the attention of the American public. We are all just going to look around one day and say, gosh, what happened to our economy? What happened to the country with the highest standard of living in the world? What happened to my job? At that point, it is, of course, too late.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we will be more truthful in the discussion of this issue, and I hope that for all of our constituents' sake that we will begin to

uphold our law, begin to defend our borders and begin to, in fact, enforce immigration law.

A TRIBUTE TO THE ASSOCIATED UNDERGROUND CONTRACTORS OF MICHIGAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FRANKS of Arizona). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise a community working together to accomplish an important goal. In an unprecedented effort, the members of the AUC, Michigan's heavy construction association, came together to renovate a unique historic site that we have in the State of Michigan, the Henry Ford. The Henry Ford museum and historical site includes Greenfield Village, the Henry Ford Museum and IMAX theater and the Benson Ford Research Center.

In 1929, Henry Ford started a living museum about American life. He wanted to collect and preserve objects that were used in everyday life. From the cider mill to the newly acquired electric car, over 83 historic structures on 90 acres celebrate the innovation and imagination of inventors whose ideas have changed our everyday life.

Mr. Speaker, last fall, in anticipation of the 100th anniversary of the Ford Motor Company, Henry Ford began a much-needed renovation. It faced all the problems of a modern town such as power outages, sewer failures, storm water flooding, decaying roads and treacherous sidewalks, as well as the equally challenging task of preserving a historic landmark.

Members of the AUC, Michigan's heavy construction association, donated their time, effort, equipment, materials, and innovative methods to solve these problems. More than 20 normally competitive contractors united to preserve 25,000 trees, replace nearly 35 miles of underground systems, and rebuild almost 11 miles of roads and sidewalks. They replaced sanitary sewers, water mains, storm sewers, irrigation piping, natural gas piping, and rewired electric and communication lines. Their expertise is estimated to have reduced the cost of renovation by nearly \$10 million and completed it in less than a year. This was done by working together, management and labor, volunteers and professionals; and I just want today, Mr. Speaker, to commend the efforts of this community in their effort to save and revitalize Henry Ford.

Henry Ford himself once said, "Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success." We had a success. The members of the AUC and many others came together, stayed together, and worked together to successfully honor the legacy of a great man and preserve part of history for our children. For that, the members of AUC

and all those who helped in this fine effort are to be commended.

HONORING MAUDELLA SHIREK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to introduce this resolution to honor the vice mayor of the city of Berkeley, a great leader for human and civil rights, for peace and disarmament, council member Vice Mayor Maudelle Shirek.

Today, is Vice Mayor Maudelle Shirek's 92nd birthday, 92nd; and in honor of her tremendous legacy, I am extremely proud to introduce the Maudelle Shirek Post Office resolution. While fighting for social justice is no rarity in Berkeley, Maudelle's name always stands above the rest because of her uncompromising fidelity to her ideals and compassion for people.

As one of my political heroes, Maudelle continues to fight for equality and social justice for all. She is truly a role model for women, especially for young African American women.

She not only inspired me to get involved in politics but also my predecessor, the honorable Ronald V. Delums. Her commitments to investing in people have won the solid support for many years of voters in her district. She is recognized throughout the world as a distinguished leader.

One of my most memorable Maudelle stories was when she was arrested with about 109 others in an anti-apartheid protest at the University of California at Berkeley. Many of the protestors were many years younger, including myself. She knew very well the awesome power of standing for what is right, regardless of the consequences.

A granddaughter of slaves, Maudelle left rural Arkansas which, of course, was her home; and she came to California in the middle of World War II. Before long, she was campaigning for fair housing and for many, many civil rights issues for African Americans and others who had been left out and disenfranchised. She became a union organizer and an office manager of the Co-Op Credit Union. She has helped many, many families in terms of their financial stability in the 9th Congressional District, especially in the city of Berkeley. She has demonstrated throughout her life the need for coalition politics for the betterment of humankind.

Vice Mayor Shirek's community commitment really knows no limits. She helped found two Berkeley senior centers, one of which she really still actively oversees; and at 92 years of age, she still delivers meals to shut-in seniors or, if it is a Tuesday, she does all of the shopping for lunches at the New Light Senior Center, which she founded 28 years ago. She taught many, including myself, the value of eating

nutritious foods in order to live a healthy life.

Vice Mayor Maudelle Shirek continues to speak for the voiceless and to defend our basic civil rights and civil liberties. Please join me in honoring Ms. Maudelle Shirek, our Vice Mayor of the city of Berkeley, who is a fierce and inspirational woman who tirelessly continues to fight to make this world fair and just, a world of peace for our children's future.

The Maudelle Shirek Post Office will be a testament to the enormous contributions of this great woman.

IN MEMORY OF FORMER NEVADA CONGRESSMAN DAVID GILMER TOWELL

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of, and announce the death of, former Nevada Congressman David Gilmer Towell, who lost his fight with cancer this past week.

Congressman Towell dedicated his life to both national and local politics from a very early age. In 1966, he founded the Douglas County Young Republicans; and within 4 years, he became the chairman of the Douglas County Republican Central Committee; and in 1972, he defeated a 10-year incumbent and was elected as Nevada's only Member of the House of Representatives.

In Congress, he would serve the people of Nevada with great distinction. He believed that government should be held accountable for a balanced budget and responsible to spending, those ideals which all of us in this House continue to echo and support 25 years later.

I extend my sympathies to his family and friends as we join together in mourning the loss of this valuable member of our community. His leadership of Nevada and of our country will serve as his legacy, and he will be remembered for years to come.

HEAD START AND PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is certainly my pleasure this evening to come here to the floor of the House to address on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus two issues that are of paramount concern. Both of them go to the very essence of life and both of them address two populations within these United States who are so often quite vulnerable.

Those issues go to addressing our Head Start program, which is one of