

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
"EQUAL TREATMENT OF PEN-
SIONS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT OF
2003"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the "Equal Treatment of Pensions and Bankruptcy Act of 2003" to eliminate an unfair and abusive practice that has allowed corporate insiders to protect their exorbitant pensions even as their employees jobs and retirement savings are obliterated in bankruptcy.

Recently, some in top corporate management have attempted to insulate their pension benefits by placing them in a trust that would be beyond the reach of the bankruptcy court. As a result, while employees lose their jobs, pensions, and other benefits, these insiders are able to walk away from the bankrupt company with a substantial windfall. This immoral tactic does not benefit the rehabilitation of the business. To the contrary, it loots the company of assets that could be used to pay creditors, employees, and help the company successfully emerge from bankruptcy. It is bad for business, it is bad for unpaid creditors, it is bad for the families who are shattered by the failure of a company.

This is an ongoing problem. In April, American Airlines enraged employees by threatening to shut down the company if they didn't accept billions in steep pay and benefit cuts, while secretly setting aside millions in pension guarantees for top executives. Although CEO Donald Carty resigned in April, American has kept its executive pension plan.

The legislation provides that if the company places any supplemental retirement benefits or deferred compensation in a trust for the benefit of management or another insider, the court will have the authority to reclaim those funds for the benefit of the creditors, including the employees. It also clarifies that a party with an interest in the case or a committee of creditors may bring a motion to reclaim these funds if the trustee or the debtor in possession consents or fails to bring such a motion. While these parties are now permitted to bring such motions, as recently reaffirmed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in the Cybergenics case, this bill reaffirms that right under the Code.

This is pattern of abuse is becoming ever more widespread. We must protect the livelihood of the average American worker and their families and ensure that top executives are not allowed to pillage a firm and enjoy protection in bankruptcy that would be denied to the people who are least to blame for the bankruptcy.

A TRIBUTE TO TSCL'S
LEADERSHIP

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to introduce to you the TREA Senior Citizens League and its new leadership.

The TREA Senior Citizens League (TSCL) is a national group of politically active seniors concerned about the protection of their earned Social Security, Medicare, military, and other retirement benefits. TSCL originated as a group of retired enlisted servicemen and women. TSCL is among the largest seniors groups with over 1.2 million active members. It is a non-partisan, non-profit educational and advocacy organization.

Key issues for TSCL include Social Security COLA fairness; using a separate CPI-E consumer price index for the elderly to calculate COLA for seniors; Notch reform; and a fair medicare and prescription drug coverage. One of the main issues continues to center on Notch reform and providing either a lump sum benefit over four years or an improved benefit calculation for those individuals born in the years 1917–1926. It is also important to ensure that future generations do not receive lower benefits because of the year in which they were born or because of government miscalculations in the Social Security system.

Since 2001 TSCL has been under the leadership of Board of Trustees Chairman George Smith with board members Ms. Dottie Holmes, Mr. Fred Athans, Mr. Richard Brogan, and more recently Mr. Ralph McCutchen. The elected TSCL Board of Trustees is a volunteer board governing the organization. Retirees and near-retirees make up the board and volunteer their services with the goal of improving the lives of fellow seniors. It was a pleasure for me to meet with their fine Board of Trustees Members List October at their offices in Alexandria, Virginia.

Under the forward-looking leadership of George Smith, the organization is determined to gain greater credibility and respectability both in Congress and in the country as a whole. In this regard Chairman Smith is to be commended for enlisting my good friend and former colleague in Congress Former Ambassador David Funderburk as TSCL's Legislative Consultant.

The legislative program for the organization for the 108th Congress includes plans for personal meetings with over half of the Members of Congress to try to gain support for issues of interest to seniors and TSCL members. TSCL efforts in these tasks have been boosted by the recent scholarly study of noted economist Dr. John Haldi that verifies the viability of the Notch. The organization has an active website, newsletter and direct mail communication with its members.

Just in the first half of 2003, TSCL has hosted a press conference in the Capitol, and

worked with Members of Congress and the White House on the prescription drug issue. A Dear Colleague letter from six Members of Congress has introduced the organization and its issues to the whole Congress. Several Members of the House and Senate have recently contributed articles on seniors issues to the TSCL newsletter: The Social Security & Medicare Advisor. And I am pleased to say that TSCL strongly supports my bill: The Social Security Guarantee Act.

Since Mr. Smith took over leadership of the TSCL Board of Trustees he has brought a seriousness of purpose and a determination to build credibility and respect for the organization. He insisted that the group's educational efforts through direct mail be well researched and documented. As Chairman Smith says, TSCL does not sell anything. Rather it strives to educate the public about issues important to senior citizens. Since so many of them have served their country in the military and in so many other ways, they are especially deserving of fair treatment.

When Mr. Smith one day completes his voluntary stint as Chairman of the TSCL Board of Trustees he should be able to say that he has left the organization much better off than he found it. He is to be commended for his vision and his desire to help some of the most worthy and needy of all of our citizens: our senior citizens including many who served the military and fought for their country. I am happy to pay tribute to the organization and its leadership.

SHED LIGHT ON HIDDEN FEES

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Wire Transfer Fairness and Disclosure Act of 2003," a bill to require additional disclosures relating to exchange rates in transfers involving international transactions.

Immigrants throughout the United States work hard, save money and send billions of dollars to relatives living in foreign countries. The money sent home helps finance basic needs ranging from food and medicine to education to new homes. Unfortunately, customers wiring money to Mexico are often losing millions of dollars to undisclosed "currency conversion fees" charged by giant firms such as Western Union and MoneyGram.

Wire Transfer companies aggressively target audiences in immigrant communities with ads promising low rates for international transfers. However, such promises are grossly misleading particularly for those with ties to Mexico or other Latin American countries, since companies do not always clearly disclose extra fees charges for converting dollars into Mexican pesos. While large wire service companies typically obtain pesos at bulk bargain rates, they charge a significant currency conversion fee to their U.S. customers. The exchange rate charged to customers sending

• 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.

U.S. dollars to Mexico routinely varies from the benchmark rates by as much as 15 percent. The profits from these hidden currency conversion fees are staggering, allowing companies to reap millions of dollars more than they make from service fees.

To address these problems, this Act requires full disclosure of all fees involved in all money-wiring transactions. More specifically, the bill requires that any financial institution or money transmitting business which initiates an international money transfer on behalf of a consumer (whether or not the consumer maintains an account at such institution or business) shall provide the following disclosures:

The exchange rate used by the financial institution or money transmitting business in connection with such transaction.

The exchange rate prevailing at a major financial center of the foreign country whose currency is involved in the transaction, as of the close of business on the business day immediately preceding the date of the transaction (or the official exchange rate, if any, of the government or central bank of such foreign country).

All commissions and fees charged by the financial institution or money transmitting business in connection with such transaction.

The exact amount of foreign currency to be received by the recipient in the foreign country, which shall be disclosed to the consumer before the transaction is consummated and printed on the receipt given to the consumer.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this pro-consumer legislation.

HONORING AMERICAN
ASSOCIATES, INC.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to rise before you today on behalf of a group of men and women who constantly help others live the American dream. On July 2, civic and community leaders will gather with the friends and families of American Associates, Inc. Real Estate Company, to celebrate the company's 20th anniversary.

For two decades, American Associates, located at 1453 N. Elms Road in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, has helped thousands of families achieve the dream of home ownership. Founded by Randy and Carol Haney, they, along with a staff of 40 agents, have specialized in finding new, used, and luxury homes for their customers. With the help of a computerized nationwide relocation service, the company has also been able to identify multi-family, industrial, and commercial properties, and even vacant lands.

Randy and Carol have also sought to place a strong influence on America as well. For the last 16 years, they, along with 250 volunteers from area youth, civic, school, and church groups, have distributed American flags throughout neighborhoods in Genesee County during the July 4th weekend. This year, American Associates plan to pass out 40,000 flags, and to date have distributed approximately 350,000. This selfless and patriotic gesture of goodwill serves to remind us all to celebrate the freedom we have as Americans, and to

strengthen our pride in the ideals on which our flag stands for.

Also this year, in memory of local resident Private First Class Jason Meyer, who heroically gave his life in service to his country in Iraq, American Associates has supplied a tree to be planted in a local park as a special tribute to the fallen soldier.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I consider it my duty and my privilege to protect and defend human dignity and the quality of life for our citizens. I am extremely grateful that people like Randy and Carol Haney, and the staff of American Associates, make my task easier. I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in commending them for going above and beyond to promote our great Nation.

CORPUS CHRISTI, AN ALL
AMERICAN CITY

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the City of Corpus Christi for the recent accomplishment of being recognized by the National Civic League as an All-America City. As a resident of Corpus Christi, I can wholeheartedly endorse the concept that Corpus Christi represents all the best in an American city.

Corpus Christi is a place where the pace is easy and the people are the best there is. It is peaceful and beautiful with beaches, military bases, high rises and a vibrant business community.

Corpus Christi's presentation included our Juvenile Assessment Center (an organization that helps decrease juvenile crime), Forward Corpus Christi (an economic development organization), the Air Quality Group (Corpus Christi is the only major city in Texas to meet state and federal air quality standards), and a local Junior ROTC team.

One of the central components of our community is our military complex. We often say South Texas is "Navy Country." Four separate bases are incorporated in the Corpus Christi area: an army base and three naval bases. The military presence in the area contributes 20% to our local economy.

Corpus Christi conveyed this pride in our military, and demonstrated the importance of our military community, by incorporating the nationally recognized efforts of the Flour Bluff Navy Jr. ROTC into the presentation.

It was the solemn and excellent presentation of the Jr. ROTC, which has won seven national titles for excellence, and which led the way for the city to win the recognition by the National Civic League as an All-America City.

Corpus Christi is the only city in Texas to receive this distinct honor this year.

I thank my friend, Robin Hayes of North Carolina, for introducing the resolution to officially commend the winners of this competition in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and the other co-sponsors of this resolution, all of whom are proud to live in an All-America City, in commending Corpus Christi and the other nine cities honored by the National Civic League.

THE PARK PROFESSIONALS
PROTECTION ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker today I am introducing legislation to protect the park professionals who "dedicate their careers to preserving our system of National Parks from the Bush Administration's privatization plan.

According to the Bush Administration, the rush to replace National Park Service employees with private-sector subcontractors is a harmless experiment to see if the services provided by thousands of dedicated public servants could be had more cheaply. The Administration claims it is considering only a small number of positions and asserts that taxpayers will see cost savings from this plan.

Unfortunately, this is just not the case. The Administration's privatization scheme is so vast, so unwarranted and so clumsy that it threatens to undermine both the National Park Service and the resources it was created to protect. To avoid this, I am introducing legislation to stop the Bush plan.

The Administration proposes to privatize approximately 1,700 full-time National Park Service employees by the end of next year. While this number alone is troubling, it is only the beginning. According to The Washington Post, the Administration has identified approximately 70% of the current NPS workforce it feels should be eligible for replacement by private workers.

And who are the people the Administration is seeking to replace? According to the Director of the National Park Service, nearly 90% of the men and women potentially eligible for privatization in the Washington, D.C. area are minorities and the numbers in areas such as Santa Fe and San Francisco are similarly lopsided.

Making matters worse, the alleged cost savings created by replacing these workers is unproven and unlikely. Despite paying private consultants more than \$5 million, or about three thousand dollars per position being considered, not a single study has been produced demonstrating even a nickel in savings. Meanwhile, that \$5 million came from funds intended to pay for the operation and maintenance of our National Parks.

Of course, the reason no savings can be demonstrated is that there are no savings to be had. This entire scheme is based on the premise that you can build a workforce of dedicated professionals, with the experience, institutional memory and expertise of the National Park Service, for less money. You can't.

The description on paper of an NPS employee's job doesn't begin to include all of the services that employee performs on the ground. Visitors don't direct their questions about plants and animals only to NPS biologists nor do they wait to ask questions regarding historic preservation until an NPS historian is available. Wildfires and heart attacks don't happen only when full-time fire fighters or EMTs are on duty.

The National Park Service challenges all of its employees, regardless of their actual job titles, to respond to all kinds of visitor needs, and the employees work hard to meet this challenge. This kind of all-out commitment and

willingness to pitch in comes from a passionate commitment to your job, a commitment which cannot be bought from the lowest bidder or adequately described in a want ad.

What's more, each unit of our National Park System is unique, both in the resources it offers and the challenges it faces. Such richness and diversity defy a "one-cheapest-size-fits-all" approach. The best scientific mind to further stabilize the Anasazi ruins at Mesa Verde is not the best person to protect endangered species in the Dry Tortugas. A private corporation, offering the lowest possible salaries, probably can't provide either of these people, much less both of them.

The fact is, NPS employees' salaries are scandalously low, their housing is dilapidated and they are frequently asked to pack up their families and move to a park thousands of miles away. These men and women work in the National Park Service because they love National Parks, and the people who visit them, and there is no excess to be wrung from their paychecks. While it is appropriate to seek the lowest bidder for the uniforms they wear or the equipment they use, allowing the lowest bidder to replace their expertise and experience will only cheapen our National Parks.

The mission of the National Park Service is resource protection and visitor enjoyment, not profit. To accomplish that mission, the National Park Service needs employees motivated by a love of people and of parks, not of money. The natural, cultural and historic resources contained within our National Parks are too valuable to allow the job of protecting them to be traded on the open market.

My legislation will stop this privatization scheme in its tracks and I urge my colleagues to support it.

IN HONOR OF THE TVB BENEFIT
VARIETY SHOW 2003

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the extraordinary efforts of NYU Downtown Hospital and its Chinese Community Partnership for Health program, for all of their work in health education, outreach and case management throughout lower Manhattan. I salute them on the occasion of the fourth annual Hong Kong Television Broadcast Limited Benefit Variety Show, which raises funds for this worthy cause.

Lower Manhattan is a diverse community that welcomes thousands of new immigrants every year, especially to the dynamic neighborhood of Chinatown. NYU Downtown Hospital is the only health care facility in the area and works to guarantee that these immigrants have access to quality health care.

The hospital has numerous successful outreach programs including the Chinese Community Partnership for Health (CCPH) program. The CCPH works to promote health care to all the residents of New York's Chinese community, including the tens of thousands of new residents each year. For ten years, the CCPH has served more than 80,000 garment and restaurant workers, elderly Chinese residents and school children in the Hospital's service area.

The centerpiece of the Partnership program is its health screening activities conducted by specially trained outreach teams that include bilingual nurses with both Eastern and Western healthcare concepts and practices. CCPH helps these immigrants overcome language and cultural barriers which prevent them from receiving the medical assistance they need and deserve.

To help raise funds for this worthy cause, CCPH and NYU Downtown Hospital will host a three-day extravaganza featuring a celebrity gala dinner and culminating in the Benefit Variety Show. Produced by the Hong Kong Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB), the Benefit Variety Show is an annual event in its fourth year that will be held in New York on July 10th. The festivities are broadcast worldwide, which helps to display New York's tremendous diversity.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the many individuals who work tirelessly to make this event an annual success, including Sir Run Run Shaw, Executive Chairman of TVB; George C.K. Liu, Chairman of the Physician Committee; Mr. Tim Cheng of the East Buffet and Restaurant; Pulchee Ngan, General Manager, Raymond Miu Productions, Inc.; and Hong Kong Superstars Jerry Lamb, Yumiko Cheng, Maggie Cheung, Denise Ho, Aaron Kwok, Alan Lam, Samantha Lam, Edmond Leung, Gigi Leung, Edwin Siu, Tommy Yuen, and Tim Yuk. I would also like to recognize the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, who are the grand benefactors of this event and do so much throughout Chinatown to serve and protect the interests of the Chinese community in New York City.

I appreciate all the good work that CCPH does to promote quality health care and I wish them great success with this year's variety show.

COMMEMORATING THE 10TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE UCSD CANCER
CENTER LUAU & LONG BOARD
INVITATIONAL

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the University of California—San Diego (UCSD) Cancer Center Luau and Long Board Invitational annual event for their continuous exemplary work in furthering the efforts of cancer treatment and research at the Rebecca and John Moores UCSD Cancer Center.

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of the Luau and Long Board Invitational, which each year brings together varying groups, from world-renowned surfing legends to corporate executives, to unify around the same cause. The many activities of the day include a ceremony honoring the recipient of the Queen of Makaha Award, recognizing an individual for his or her efforts to fight cancer and dedication to helping others in ways that embody the true "aloha" spirit.

This year's 10th Anniversary event serves as a milestone of success and a measure of the many contributions of supporters both in and out of the San Diego community toward

the struggle against cancer. Through a good deal of time and effort, the Luau has earned a worldwide reputation as one of the finest and most soulful surfing-themed philanthropic events to be found anywhere. The challenge of organizing the Luau year after year is successfully accomplished by a passionate grassroots network of local volunteers, many of whom are cancer survivors. Additionally, the Luau is generously supported by a diverse collection of prominent, community-minded companies, organizations and individuals.

Since its founding in 1994, the Luau has raised more than \$1 million to finance promising cancer research projects at the Rebecca and John Moores UCSD Cancer Center. In 2002 alone, over \$170,000 was raised. Today, scientists and doctors are making great strides in the battle to fight cancer, but the disease continues to be one of the most widespread diseases in the United States. We must do our part to keep up the fight, and this Luau serves as a perfect means for all San Diegans to get involved.

I applaud the UCSD Cancer Center Luau and Long Board Invitational for their continuous efforts in the fight against Cancer. To all those who have spent countless hours on this important event year after year: Mahalo!

I yield back the balance of my time.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. SHARAD
SHAH AND SHARE AND CARE
FOUNDATION

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to laud the accomplishments of Mr. Sharad Shah, and the organization he helped create, The Share and Care Foundation. Share and Care is a unique organization that provides medical equipment, food, basic health care, crisis and disaster relief, youth vocational training, internship programs, scholarships and more to those desperately in need. This forum has been the starting ground for many people, and has provided a much-needed service to lift up underprivileged children and women faced with seemingly insurmountable obstacles, and set them on the road to a productive life.

Share and Care, the brainchild of a small group of Indian-Americans, was born in 1982 in New Jersey. More than 50 active volunteers are involved in multifaceted projects and services. The volunteers see themselves as catalysts, promoting low cost, high return programs at grass root levels. Their 100% volunteer organization maximizes the utilization of funds for a deserving cause. In the last twenty years this organization has grown over a hundred fold.

Share and Care has offered its services since the Bhopal tragedy in 1984 to the recent Gujarat earthquake in 2001. Share and Care aided in building schools, hospitals, training centers, health camps and blood banks, and sponsored thousands of students seeking an education. This Foundation has directed more than \$5 million in cash and kind donations to the victims of the January 2001 earthquake. About 2,500 individuals throughout the United States donated more than \$1 million for the effort. Additionally, about 50 corporations and

groups collected donations and chose Share and Care to distribute the money in order to deliver relief to the people of Gujarat.

This Foundation is a recognized name that people trust with their donations and can rely on for help in the most tragic times. Their numerous community and rehabilitation initiatives have totaled more than \$30 million. Mr. Speaker, on this day I rise up to acknowledge a truly remarkable individual and I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Shah and his organization for the fine and important work they have done over the past twenty years.

HONORING MAYNARD HOLBROOK
JACKSON, JR.

HON. MAX BURNS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Maynard Holbrook Jackson, Jr., and to extend condolences to the family, friends, and business associates of the untimely death of an extraordinary man who changed the way the world sees the City of Atlanta.

Mr. Jackson loved Atlanta, the state of Georgia, and its people. He worked endlessly to create a city that many refer to as the "Mecca of the South." Because of his tireless devotion, Atlanta's growth and development has gained national prominence.

A savvy politician and businessman, Mr. Jackson was the first African-American to be elected mayor of a major southern city. A great champion for diversity, inclusion, and fairness, he built bridges between racial, economic, and social lines that brought a sense of togetherness to the City of Atlanta and its citizens.

Mr. Jackson's dynamic leadership was the driving force in the design, development and expansion of one of the nation's busiest airports, Atlanta's Hartsfield International. In addition, his legacy includes programs that empowered neighborhoods and a department that oversees cultural affairs. He worked tirelessly as an advocate of affirmative action and laid the foundation that brought the 1996 Summer Olympics to Atlanta.

Mr. Jackson was a successful politician and businessman who had a passion for public service. The death of this remarkable man creates a great void for the City of Atlanta, the state of Georgia, and the entire nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, due to events beyond my control I was unable to be present for the following rollcall votes. Had I been able to submit my votes, they would have been as follows:

Rollcall vote No. 297 on agreeing to the passage of H. Res. 264—"yes".

Rollcall vote No. 298 on agreeing to the passage of H. Res. 177—"yes".

Rollcall vote No. 299 on agreeing to the passage of H. Con. Res. 209—"yes".

Rollcall vote No. 300 on agreeing to the passage of H.R. 2465—"yes".

MAKE RESEARCH FUNDED BY THE
PUBLIC AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, today I will introduce the Public Access to Science Act, PASA, of 2003, legislation to make federally funded research available to the public.

It is wrong when a breast cancer patient cannot access federally funded research paid for by her hard-earned taxes. It is wrong when a family whose child has a rare disease must pay again for access to research their tax dollars already paid for. Common sense dictates we provide the most cutting-edge research to all who may benefit from it, especially when they have already paid for it with their tax dollars.

The United States Government funds basic research with the intention and the belief that the new ideas and discoveries that result will improve the lives and welfare of the people of the United States and around the world. Our government spends \$45 billion a year to support scientific and medical research whose product is new knowledge for the public benefit. We must remember that government funded research belongs to, and should be readily available to, every person in the United States. Lifting restrictions that prevent the widespread sharing of federally funded research can only speed scientific advancement.

I urge you to join me by cosponsoring this legislation to require research substantially funded by the Federal Government to be ineligible for copyright protection, and thus available in the public domain.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

June 24, 2003, Rollcall vote 307, on agreeing to the Filner amendment, I would have voted "no".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I attended the funeral of the Honorable Bob Stump in Phoenix, Arizona and missed votes on the following measures:

1. S. 858—To extend the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, and for other pur-

poses (#312). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

2. H.R. 2474—To require that funds made available for fiscal years 2003 and 2004 for the Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland Hunger Fellowships be administered through the Congressional Hunger Center (#313). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

3. H.J. Res. 49—recognizing the important service to the Nation provided by the Foreign Agricultural Service of the Department of Agriculture on the occasion of its 50th anniversary (#314). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

4. H. Con. Res. 49—expressing the sense of the Congress that the sharp escalation of anti-Semitic violence within many participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is of profound concern and efforts should be undertaken to prevent future occurrences (#315). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

5. H. Res. 199—calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China immediately and unconditionally to release Dr. Yang Jianli, calling on the President of the United States to continue working on behalf of Dr. Yang Jianli for his release, and for other purposes (#316). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

6. H. Res. 294—condemning the terrorism inflicted on Israel since the Aqaba Summit and expressing solidarity with the Israeli people in their fight against terrorism (#317). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING UCSD CANCER
CENTER

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The UCSD Cancer Center Luau and Longboard Invitational. This event brings together surfing legends from around the world, celebrities, and corporate executives to benefit cancer treatment and research at the Rebecca and John Moores UCSD Cancer Center. It features a friendly surfing competition between sponsored teams, a Polynesian-themed party featuring food, entertainment, live and silent auctions of surf memorabilia, and a brief ceremony to honor the winner of the Rell Sunn—Queen of Makaha Award. This award recognizes an individual for his or her efforts to fight cancer and dedication to helping others in ways that embody the true "aloha" spirit.

Since its founding in 1994, the Luau has raised more than \$1 million for the center. Much of these funds have been used as "seed money" that finances the initial stages of promising cancer research projects and helps them qualify for additional funding from federal or other sources.

The Luau also has earned a worldwide reputation as one of the finest and most soulful surfing-themed philanthropic events anywhere. It is organized by a passionate grassroots network of local volunteers (many of whom are cancer survivors), and is generously supported by a diverse collection of prominent, community-minded companies, organizations and individuals. This year's event promises to be extra special, as it is the 10th anniversary of the UCSD Cancer Center Luau.

This event is especially meaningful to me because in the summer of 1998, I am one of thousands of men who was diagnosed with prostate cancer following a simple prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test. During my annual examination in the summer of 1998, my doctor noted a slight elevation in my PSA test. He followed up with a sonogram and an MRI, neither of which revealed the disease. It was only after a prostate biopsy that it was determined that I had cancer. Following the diagnosis, in consultation with my family, I decided to pursue surgery as my treatment option. I am fortunate—early detection saved my life. My doctor was familiar with PSA results, and I had healthcare coverage for my treatments. As a cancer survivor, I personally understand the hope that the groundbreaking research provides to individuals who are suffering, or who have a loved one who is battling a disease. I understand the importance of finding better ways to diagnose and treat this disease which affects so many people in our nation.

I am proud to support the UCSD Cancer Center, and I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Luau and Longboard Invitational. This event will help to ensure that the Cancer Center is able to continue to provide quality services to those facing cancer, and to develop new lifesaving treatments.

TRIBUTE TO THE VILLAGE OF
SOUTH RANGE, MICHIGAN ON
THE CENTENNIAL OF ITS FOUNDING

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Village of South Range, Michigan on 100 years of vibrant community life as the Village celebrates the centennial of its founding.

In 1903, Theodore Roosevelt was President, the Wright brothers made their historic first flight on the hills outside Kitty Hawk, and Henry Ford started the Ford Motor Company with the introduction of the Model A Ford roadster.

Another memorable event of 1903 was the founding of the Town of South Range by the Whealkate Mining Company, at the south end of the copper range on the Keweenaw Peninsula in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

At the time the Town of South Range was founded, most of the land within its boundaries was owned by various copper mining companies who had flocked to the area with the discovery of rich copper deposits in the 19th century. This period in the Keweenaw's history, and the economic and cultural fabric created by the mines, the miners, their families and the communities that grew up around them is the story commemorated by the Keweenaw National Historical Park.

Once the Town of South Range was platted, it became possible for hardworking miners and local people to buy the lots and begin to build a community separate from the mining companies that most of them worked for. As the town grew, businesses, churches and social clubs were created to serve its inhabitants.

In 1906 the residents petitioned the Houghton County Commissioners to incorporate the

Village of South Range, which it remains today. The Village may have fewer than one thousand residents and winter weather that averages fifteen feet of snow, but its people also have warm hearts and a true civic spirit.

Led by Village President Michael Rompf, they have planned a two week centennial celebration during which South Range will choose a centennial queen and highlight its history with photo exhibits, mine tours, visits to historic sites and a living history re-enactment.

South Range residents have not forgotten music and dancing, just like the socials that provided respite from the backbreaking work in the mines for their forebears. They plan dancing to swing and polka music, and teen dances for the younger crowd. A pasty supper, community flag raising on the Fourth of July, a parade, craft and dog shows, slow pitch softball and of course, fireworks will all bring community residents and visitors closer together.

On a serious note, a ceremony will re-dedicate South Range's memorial to war veterans, the "Honor Roll," at the Community Center on July 5th. This will mark completion of the restoration of the memorial and honor those who served in action from South Range. An observance of the 50th anniversary of the Korean War will follow this ceremony, hosted by South Range's VFW Post.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my fellow Members of Congress join me in extending warm congratulations to the Village of South Range as we celebrate not only the birth of our great nation, but also the contributions and hard work that made possible South Range's 100 years of continued vitality as a community. South Range and thousands of communities like it are truly the bedrock of our national strength.

REGARDING THE CAMBODIAN
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note that Cambodia is scheduled to hold its National Assembly elections on July 27, 2003, and to express our hopes and concerns that the electoral process be free and fair. The United States is strongly committed, not to a particular outcome in those elections, but to a credible process that is fair in its administration and execution, and free of the violence, intimidation, and alleged fraud that sadly have marred other elections since the 1997 coup in that country.

On June 10, 2003, the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific held a hearing on "Recent Developments in Southeast Asia" that focused in part on the upcoming Cambodian elections. While there have been improvements in recent years, such as an updated Electoral Law and a new National Election Committee, certain credible concerns persist. Experts at our hearing and other observers have questioned the independence of the Election Committee, complained of opposition politicians' lack of access to Cambodian mass media, and raised concerns about continuing political violence. In February, Om Radsady, an outspoken critic of Prime Minister Hun Sen,

was assassinated. That same month, at least two other dissidents were detained on frail allegations that they were responsible for inciting the January 29, 2003 anti-Thai riots in Phnom Penh, during which the Thai Embassy was attacked and damaged. These incidents underscore the need for further vigilance.

For these reasons, I join the U.S. Department of State in calling on the Government of Cambodia to prevent all forms of election coercion and to prosecute perpetrators of violence. I also share the Department's hope that the Cambodian National Election Committee will demonstrate its neutrality and independence, fulfill its promise of equal media access, and act rapidly to deal with allegations of irregularities during the 30-day election campaign period, on polling day, and during the ballot counting process.

The people of the United States share the aspirations of the people of Cambodia to free expression, self-determination, and the development of an election administration that commands confidence across Cambodian society. We sincerely hope that the July 27 elections will be an important step in that process.

IDENTITY THEFT PROTECTION
AND INFORMATION BLACKOUT
ACT OF 2003

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Identity Theft Protection and Information Blackout Act of 2003." I am proud to offer this legislation on behalf of eighteen of my Republican and Democratic colleagues in the House.

As Congress debates reauthorization of the Fair Credit Reporting Act's preemption provisions, ordinary Americans are more concerned than ever about the privacy of their financial and health information. Moreover, the identity theft epidemic continues to disrupt lives and cost families and businesses millions of dollars. Americans want, need, and expect the Federal government to take action to address these issues.

In response to this urgent problem, my legislation establishes methods for preventing identity theft and amends the FCRA to protect consumers' sensitive, private health-related information by safeguarding it from indiscriminate use by credit bureaus, financial institutions, and affiliates.

This legislation also protects Social Security numbers from identity thieves. An individual's Social Security number has been called the "the golden key" to financial identity theft. To protect this vital key to personal information, my legislation institutes national standards governing the collection, use, display, sale and security of social security numbers by government and by private sector entities.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring the Identity Theft Protection and Information Blackout Act, and I strongly urge the House to consider this important measure as we move closer to reauthorizing the Fair Credit Reporting Act and similar legislation to keep personal financial and related information private and protected from fraud and abuse.

CONGRATULATIONS HONORARY
DEGREE RECIPIENTS**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mrs. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest pleasure that I congratulate the 2003 Honorary Degree recipients from John Carroll University, Monsignor William Linder, who received a Doctor of Laws, and the recipients of a Doctorate in Humane Letters, Sonya Rendon Blacio and Mary Patricia McTeague. America is fortunate to be blessed with citizens of their high calibre and profound dedication.

Monsignor William Linder has spent his life saving cities and souls. During the Newark riots of 1967, the New Jersey native, a parish priest at the time, stepped forward to bring people together and build trust. He moved through the battle zone, delivering food and transporting the injured to hospitals. After the smoke cleared, the priest called together a group of residents to set about rebuilding the city they loved. In Newark's Central Ward, they formed the New Community Corporation (NCC) and charged it with the mission of creating housing and the products and services that would bring jobs. The NCC has become the largest and most successful community development organization in the United States. It has brought new life to the old city of Newark, providing housing and jobs for thousands, and creating a community development model that is now being studied and emulated throughout the world. Monsignor Linder has won the McArthur Foundation "Genius" fellowship, and he has received countless honors in the course of his remarkable ministry to the people of northern New Jersey. He has said, "I have never really thought of myself as a pastor to only Catholics. I am a pastor of people."

In honor of Monsignor Linder, Professor George Bilgere penned the following poem:

You walked into the battle zone
Of Newark in the sixties
A young, audacious, rabble-rousing priest,
Hoping to rebuild the city from its core,
To heal its broken heart, to do
What no one believed you could do.
The broken-hearted cities,
The neighborhoods called Hough
And Watts and Spanish Harlem,
Are not the parts of America
We think of saving
When the bombs are falling,
Or when the flag is waving
Over baseball games in spring.
Probably there aren't many flags
Waving over East St. Louis or Cabrini Green
Or Roxbury or Eight mile,
But it's hard to know for sure
Because no one travels there
Who doesn't have to.
Only those who have no choice
Live in the broken heart
Of America.
But now, thirty-five years later,
A gray-haired, audacious, rabble-rousing
priest,
You watch the Central Ward prosper
While the country watches you,
Taking hope from the strength and courage,
The hard work of one stubborn man,
One man of vision who understands
That America will not be whole or free
Until the cities,

The broken-hearted cities, are healed.

Sonya Rendon Blacio and Mary Patricia McTeague have had dramatic success in creating a new world in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Rendon, an Ecuadorian education, and McTeague, an American and a former nun, have built a school that is a model of both educational excellence and egalitarianism. At Escuela Nuevo Mondo, which the two women began in 1979, the school's 200 faculty members instruct 1400 tuition-paying students, the children of affluent Ecuador, in the morning. In the afternoon, 900 children of poverty receive the same education for free from the Fundacion Nuevo Mondo. Rendon and McTeague state that Nuevo Mondo is in truth "a social revolution aimed at changing attitudes between social classes and opening doors to offer options to some of the 80 percent of Ecuadorians who otherwise would not have the opportunity for quality education, medical and social assistance." Today, Nuevo Mondo operates elementary and high schools, a commercial bakery, two day care centers, two medical centers and vocational training projects. The people of Ecuador continue to struggle, but Nuevo Mondo has been a beacon pointing the way to a new world.

In honor of Sonya Rendon Blacio and Mary Patricia McTeague, Professor George Bilgere penned the following poem:

On the coast of Ecuador,
Out of poverty and despair,
A new world is rising,
One classroom at a time
A Nuevo Mundo, where once
Was only a jungle and a dream.
At first your idea was simple;
Build a school for their children
So in the afternoon
There would, at last, be a classroom
For the children of the poor.
But you learned over time
That the rich, too, are poor,
As long as they can't define
The word hunger, or explain
What it means to have no shoes,
Or to be unable
To read the Bible, or a novel,
Or your name.
Real change, you found,
Comes only when the rich man suffers
To learn from the beggar
That they are brothers
Who can help each other
Ease the pain of the world;
Only then will come the day
When the old world passed
Through hard work and love
And the Gospel of Jesus Christ,
Into the new world you dream of
And are building from the jungle
One classroom at a time,
That Nuevo Mundo, where all
Are brothers and sisters,
Equal in every way.

SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH
FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 660. It is being promoted by some in Congress as the silver bullet that will help small businesses get health insurance, but I

believe that this legislation puts consumers at risk without helping small business owners get health insurance.

Many of my concerns about AHPs mirror those of Sandy Praeger, the Kansas Insurance Commissioner. I will quote extensively from her remarks about AHPs made before the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee on February 5, 2003.

AHPs will not reduce the cost of health insurance for small businesses. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that H.R. 660 would actually drive up the cost of coverage for 20 million individuals—80 percent of small employers and their families who are now covered under employer-based health insurance plans. The results of this legislation could actually make coverage less affordable for the vast majority of small business workers who now have coverage. A recent study released by National Small Business United (NSBU) found that AHPs would result in more than 1 million more uninsured and cause premiums to skyrocket for the sickest workers.

Additionally, H.R. 660 will hurt those who most need health coverage, and those who employ them. H.R. 660 could actually hurt those who most need health coverage by allowing AHPs to "cherry pick" only the healthiest, cheapest-to-insure individuals to participate in their plans. Most States prohibit this kind of health insurance discrimination, but H.R. 660 would preempt these anti-discrimination measures in most States, allowing AHPs to discriminate against those who most need coverage. Commissioner Praeger's remarks illustrate how H.R. 660 would undermine State reforms in this regard and leave sicker and higher risk employees out in the cold.

In order to keep costs low, AHPs would have an incentive to target the people who are the least costly to insure—healthy, young people who rarely access health services. By giving AHPs the power to charge higher premiums for less healthy groups and the discretion to offer narrower benefits, these bills will allow AHPs to deter less healthy groups from enrolling. Small businesses that employ older, disabled or chronically ill individuals would be forced to pay more out-of-pocket or left behind altogether. As noted above, 80 percent of small employers will be left out and will likely see their premiums increase as the State-regulated health insurance market loses its healthy individuals to AHPs, leaving sicker and older individuals in the State market.

State consumer protections, such as external appeals of disputed claims, would be ignored as well as other guaranteed benefits such as maternity care, mammograms, mental health treatment, or diabetes. For many years, I have supported efforts to enact a strong patients' bill of rights that would extend consumer protections to all Americans. This legislation, however, would expose millions of workers—in both small and large businesses—who now enjoy the advantages of State consumer protections into plans that are completely exempt from those protections.

Fundamentally, AHPs would completely destroy the State insurance market. As Commissioner Praeger stated:

The AHP legislation in Congress would undermine state reforms and once again fragment the market. Each association would create its own risk pool that, due to the benefits provided, types of business in the association, or area serviced, could have significantly lower risk than the general market.

While the bill does make some effort to reduce "cherry picking" the NAIC believes the provisions would be inadequate.

Commissioner Praeger goes on to say:

This self-selection is extremely disruptive to the marketplace and will create a very unstable situation in an already fragile small group market, likely reducing the number of insurers willing to offer coverage in the general market. Insurance is of little use unless the costs of caring for the relatively few can be distributed among the many who are healthy.

AHPs would exempt health insurers from State rules that are needed to effectively govern health insurance companies. AHPs would also be exempt from State solvency laws and oversight and subject to inadequate standards. The American Academy of Actuaries has said that the solvency standards for AHPs contained in H.R. 660 are inadequate, and Commissioner Praeger's testimony underscores these concerns. Her testimony states that the solvency standards under the bill are "woefully inadequate" and goes on to predict "If a nationwide AHP were offered to a large association, a capital surplus of only \$2 million would result in disaster." Supporters of H.R. 660 claim that the Department of Labor has sufficient resources to oversee the new plans and prevent insolvencies and fraud. Commissioner Praeger believes that this is not the case. She notes that "The Department of Labor has neither the resources nor the expertise to regulate insurance products."

More than 500 organizations—including many of the major consumer and health care provider organizations—have voiced their opposition to this legislation. The legislation is also strongly opposed by the Nation's Republican and Democratic governors, attorneys general and insurance commissioners. Additionally, many in the small business community oppose H.R. 660, including the National Small Business United (NSBU), which has voiced its opposition to this legislation because it would hurt, not help, many small employers. They cite a recent study by Mercer found that AHPs would result in more than 1 million more uninsured and cause premiums to skyrocket for the sickest workers.

I do understand that small employers are clamoring for relief from the high cost of health care, and I support efforts to improve individuals' and small businesses' ability to obtain quality health insurance. I have introduced H.R. 1937, the Small Business Health Insurance Availability Act. This bill would do several things to help uninsured Americans who work for small businesses get adequate health care. My legislation would establish a tax credit toward the purchase of health insurance for all small employers who choose to offer it. The credit will reimburse 20 percent of health insurance costs, up to \$400 per year for individuals and \$1000 for family coverage. Businesses can get an additional 10 percent tax credit (up to 30 percent total) if they join in a Health Benefit Purchasing Coalition, which provides small employers a way to pool resources, negotiate collectively with insurers, and administer health plans for small employer groups. In order to foster innovation on the State level, the bill creates State grant programs for initiatives that expand health insurance to the uninsured through market innovations.

I believe that we must help uninsured Americans to obtain health insurance while not put-

ting individual insurance markets or consumers at risk. My legislation, in contrast to the very controversial AHP proposals, could be enacted into law immediately without disrupting health insurance markets or regulatory structures. It would also preserve the rights and protections of consumers in States and ensure that the business of health insurance remain regulated on the State level. It would also give small business owners, like their big business competitors, the opportunity to band together and bargain for better insurance rates and terms.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2620 TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2003

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today I proudly joined my good friend from New Jersey, the Chairman of the Veterans Committee and the Vice-Chairman of the Committee on International Relations, in introducing H.R. 2620, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003.

Mr. Speaker, in the 106th Congress, Mr. Smith and our former colleague, Sam Gejdenson of Connecticut, spent enormous energy to pass the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. I was proud to be an original co-sponsor of that landmark legislation. It is wise to recall where we were just a few short years ago with respect to trafficking of persons. The CIA estimated that 50,000 people were being trafficked into the United States each year and being held in conditions that amounted to modern day slavery. They were being forced to labor in our fields, to work endless hours in sweatshops, and to serve in sexual slavery in cities across our land. U.S. prosecution of traffickers faltered because attorneys in our Department of Justice did not have the right tools to pursue the new forms of trafficking, which often relied on threats, not chains, and on document fraud, not bills of sale. Overseas, millions of people were being used as chattel, and the brothels of Bombay and Bangkok were overflowing with prostitutes, many young girls, who were forced to provide sex. Governments were barely aware of what was happening to their own people, and where they were, they usually blamed the victims and forgot about them. And the international community was just starting to fashion an international agreement to address the horrors of trafficking.

Today the picture is visibly brighter. Because of the enactment of the Smith-Gejdenson Act, the Attorney General is prosecuting cases from American Samoa to New Jersey and has recently achieved the first conviction under the new tools provided by that Act right here in the DC metropolitan area. Victims are coming forward because of the federal benefits we are offering to them, treating them like the refugees that they are. The naming of countries that are not making significant efforts to combat trafficking and the threat of sanctions against them are forcing measurable changes in the way that governments around the world are facing this modern day form of slavery. A new international criminal protocol

is gaining wide acceptance, and is being studied by the Administration. Modern day slavery is under assault from all directions.

But Mr. Speaker, we need to do more. In the two-and-a-half years since the enactment of the Smith-Gejdenson Act, we have learned much more about the phenomena of trafficking and how to combat it. It is time to do a thorough review of our trafficking statutes and ensure that we are doing everything we can to prevent trafficking, protect victims and prosecute traffickers.

And that is exactly what the Trafficking Victims Reauthorization Act of 2003 accomplishes. Drawing from the conference earlier this year held by the Department of State, this bill authorizes new strategies for prevention, including using trafficking victims to identify traffickers at the borders and deterring sex tourism, which is part of the fuel of sex slavery around the world. It increases protection by making measured expansions of the visa category for trafficking victims and related provisions to better enable cooperation, particularly with respect to state and local trafficking prosecutions, which are increasingly the front line of law enforcement in this area. And it enhances prosecution of traffickers by, for example, ensuring that trafficking is treated like the organized crime that it is. Perhaps most critically, it demonstrates Congressional commitment to fighting this scourge by authorizing additional funds for U.S. agencies to combat this human rights crisis around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Congressman SMITH, Congressman PITTS and Congresswoman SLAUGHTER for the vision they are showing today by joining me in this fight against trafficking in human beings. Just as we made a real difference two-and-a-half years ago, we can accelerate our fight against modern-day slavery. I urge all my colleagues to join in this fight.

BILL TO MAKE PERMANENT THE EXPANDED EXPENSING BENEFITS PROVIDED TO SMALL BUSINESSES UNDER THE JOBS AND GROWTH TAX RELIEF RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2003

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, last year Congress, working together with President Bush, enacted into law the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003. Among other provisions, this new law strengthens and expands the expensing provisions afforded to small businesses under section 179 of the Internal Revenue Code. As such, the law encourages small businesses to make new capital investments, thus spurring our economy and creating jobs. I believe Congress should make this provision permanent and today I am introducing the "Small Business Expensing Permanency Act of 2003" to do just that.

Specifically, the Jobs and Growth Act increases from \$25,000 to \$100,000 the amount of new investment a business can expense—or deduct from income—in a given year. The new law also increases—from \$200,000 to \$400,000—the amount of total investment a business can make in a year and still qualify

for expensing under section 179. Unfortunately, under the new law, these provisions are set to expire after 2005.

My legislation will repeal the 2005 sunset. If the higher expensing limits are good for our nation's small businesses over the next two years, they should be good for small businesses indefinitely.

Small businesses truly are the backbone of our economy, representing more than half of all jobs and economic output. We should not take small business vitality for granted, however. Rather, our tax laws should support small businesses in their role as the engines of innovation, growth, and job creation.

Mr. Speaker, in difficult economic times, we must do all we can to encourage new investment and job creation by creating certainty and predictability for America's small business owners. The "Small Business Expensing Permanency Act of 2003" will help accomplish this worthy goal. I applaud the administration for its consistent leadership on this issue, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this much-needed legislation.

H.R. 2620: TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003, which is intended to improve the United States efforts in combating the scourge of human trafficking. I am very pleased to have Congressman LANTOS, ranking member of the International Relations Committee, Congressman PITTS and Congresswoman SLAUGHTER, join me as original cosponsors.

According to a recently released U.S. Government estimate, 800,000 to 900,000 women, children, and men fall victim to international trafficking each year and end up prisoners of slavery like practices in the commercial sex industry, domestic servitude, sweatshops, and agricultural farms, among other destinations.

In October 2000, we adopted the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), P.L. 106-386. As a result of that law, the U.S. Government allocated \$68.2 million last year to combat trafficking in human beings. In the past two years, federal prosecutors initiated prosecutions of 79 traffickers—three times as many as in the two previous years. Nearly 400 survivors of trafficking in the United States have received assistance, facilitated by the Department of Health and Human Services, to begin recovering from their trauma and to rebuild their shattered lives. Thanks to the efforts of the State Department, USAID, and the spotlight put on the issue through the annual Trafficking in Persons Report, governments worldwide have also begun taking significant actions against human trafficking.

Despite these substantive inroads, people continue to be bought and sold in modern day slavery. Victims continue to face obstacles in the process of securing needed assistance. We are not yet addressing trafficking in persons as an organized crime activity. We have not yet aggressively targeted sex tourism as a

factor contributing to the demand for trafficked persons in prostitution, and more specialized research is needed.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) would address these and other areas of concern, would authorize funding to continue our government's efforts against trafficking, and would build upon the experience of implementing the TVPA to refine U.S. laws and practices to better fulfill the intent of that law. Specifically, the TVPRA would enhance the prevention of human trafficking by:

Requiring that U.S. Government contracts relating to international affairs contain clauses authorizing termination by the United States if the contractor engages in human trafficking or procures commercial sexual services while the contract is in force;

Promoting innovative trafficking prevention initiatives, such as border interdiction programs; and

Requiring airlines to inform passengers about U.S. laws against sex tourism.

The TVPRA would enhance protections for trafficking victims by:

Allowing Federal, State, or local law enforcement authorities to certify, for the purpose of receiving benefits, that a victim of trafficking has cooperated in the investigation or prosecution of trafficking crimes;

Allowing trafficking victims to sue their traffickers in U.S. courts;

Eliminating the requirement that a victim of trafficking between the ages of 15 and 18 must cooperate with the investigation and prosecution of his or her trafficker in order to be eligible for a T-visa;

Allowing benefits and services available to victims of trafficking to be available for their family members legally entitled to join them in United States; and

Providing for the confidentiality of T-visa applications.

The TVPRA would enhance prosecution of trafficking-related crimes by:

Permitting federal anti-trafficking statutes to be used to prosecute acts of trafficking involving foreign commerce or occurring in the special maritime or territorial jurisdiction of the United States;

Making human trafficking crimes predicate offenses for RICO charges; and

Encouraging the use of International Law Enforcement Academies to train foreign law enforcement authorities, prosecutors and members of the judiciary regarding human trafficking.

The TVPRA would improve the U.S. Government's response to trafficking by:

Encouraging critical research initiatives;

Mandating a report on Federal agencies' implementation of the TVPA;

Designating that the Director of the State Department Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking shall have the rank of Ambassador-at-Large; and

Prohibiting the use of funds to promote, support, or advocate the legalization or practice of prostitution.

The TVPRA would reauthorize appropriations for each of FY 2004 and 2005:

\$4 million to the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking;

\$15 million to the Department of Health and Human Services;

To the Secretary of State, \$15 million for assistance for victims in other countries; \$15 mil-

lion for programs to improve law enforcement and prosecution; and \$15 million for trafficking prevention initiatives;

\$300,000 to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for trafficking prevention and legal reform programs;

\$15 million to the Department of Justice for assistance to victims in the United States and \$250,000 for anti-trafficking training activities at the International Law Enforcement Academies (ILEAs);

\$15 million to the President for foreign victim assistance (prevention activities); \$15 million for assistance to foreign countries to meet the minimum standards to combat trafficking; \$300,000 for research; and \$250,000 for anti-trafficking training activities at the ILEAs; and \$10 million to the Department of Labor.

Mr. Speaker, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 enjoyed broad, bipartisan support in both Houses of Congress. We are making progress in our battle against modern day slavery, but clearly there is still much work to be done by government authorities, by civil society, by our faith communities, and by all men and women of good will. As lawmakers, we have the opportunity to make our contribution to this endeavor. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this commonsense reauthorization bill to support and enhance the good work which has been undertaken.

RECOGNIZING MARY ELLEN DESANTOS

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an individual who has dedicated over twenty-five years of her life to public education, Mary Ellen DeSantos, on the occasion of her retirement.

DeSantos' remarkable contributions as an educator with the Los Angeles County Office of Education are well known. Her leadership has proven invaluable in implementing innovative approaches to improve the quality of education for language minority students in the Los Angeles County area utilizing the Title I and Title VII program.

DeSantos has taken on many roles in the private and public education sector in Arizona and California. Over the course of twenty-five years she has been a primary and secondary education teacher, director of state categorical programs, bilingual coordinator, and a vocational teacher trainer.

Mary Ellen DeSantos' hard work has enriched the lives of over eight thousand students. Her numerous contributions will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO FABIUS-POMPEY BOYS BASEBALL TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the stellar Varsity Boys Baseball Team of Fabius-Pompey High School, winners of the Class C New York State Championship.

This year the Boys Baseball Team earned their 6th consecutive Section 3 title, as well as their second State Champion title. These awards are only fitting, since at the end of their Spring 2003 season they were on a 55-game winning streak in their own Patriot Division. Coach Shawn May certainly has much in which to be proud.

On behalf of the entire 25th District of New York State, I would like to congratulate the following champions: Christopher Blanck, Erik Dodge, John DeMetro, Mathew Morse, Mitchell Morse, Seth Woodford, Brett Farewell, Keith Fields, Andrew Ford, James Spicer, Joshua Truax, Joseph Wilcox, Brendan Blanck, Coach Shawn May, and Assistant Coaches Josh Virgil, Kevin Carroll, and Rich Kutzy.

CERTIFICATION OF ASSISTANCE
TO SERBIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Department of State last week made its determination to certify compliance by the Government of Serbia and Montenegro with the terms of section 578 of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution (P.L. 108-7). This section conditions certain bilateral assistance to Serbia on progress in three areas, although by far the most critical being cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

I agree with the Department's assessment that progress has been made, especially since March. In particular, I welcomed action earlier this month by the Serbian authorities to apprehend Veselin Svižljančanin, indicted by the Tribunal for the 1991 massacre near Vukovar in Croatia. Although there was resistance, this action was a success and signaled what is perhaps a new determination by Belgrade to transfer all remaining indictees. Having been in Vukovar, along with my good friend and colleague Mr. WOLF, just before the city fell to Serb forces, I am glad to see all three indicted by the Tribunal for this crime will be tried in The Hague.

Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that the Department's determination was the wrong one to make. While progress has been made, it remains insufficient. Still at large and believed to have been in Serbia are several other persons, including Ratko Mladic and others—Ljubisa Beara, Vujadin Popovic, Ljubomir Borovčanin, Vinko Pandurevic and Drago Nikolic—indicted by the Tribunal for their connection to the 1995 Srebrenica massacre in which thousands of innocent people were executed.

I am concerned, deeply concerned, that these individuals will continue to evade justice while officials in Belgrade may get the impression they have done enough. Clearly, they have not. Mr. Speaker, I would urge Serbian authorities to take the action necessary to remove "cooperation with the Tribunal" as an outstanding issue in our bilateral relationship. In doing so, they will also continue to help Serbia emerge from Slobodan Milosevic's legacy of nationalist hatred.

In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, I also urge the State Department to use remaining levers

to encourage not just better, but full, cooperation with the Tribunal, which Secretary Powell had assured Mr. CARDIN and myself in correspondence was a position we all shared. The crimes which occurred were too severe and too horrendous to allow those responsible to escape justice.

RECOGNIZING ANTONIO R.
VILLARAIGOSA

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding individual who has made significant contributions to improve the quality of life of the constituents of California's 32nd Congressional District, Antonio Villaraigosa.

Antonio Villaraigosa is a visionary, caring and progressive public servant. Throughout his professional career, Antonio Villaraigosa has held various leadership positions in the public sector and the labor movement. He served on the boards of the Southern California Rapid Transit District and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. In 1994, he was elected to the California State Assembly representing the 45th District of Los Angeles, and four years after was elected Speaker of the Assembly. As Speaker of the Assembly he was credited with fostering an unprecedented era of bipartisanship.

As a true coalition-builder, Antonio Villaraigosa spearheaded a \$9.1 billion initiative to rebuild and modernize California schools, a \$2.1 billion initiative to provide parks and open space throughout the state, and a state health insurance program, "Healthy Families."

On June 28, 2003, Antonio Villaraigosa will be sworn in as Los Angeles City Councilmember representing the 14th District. Some of his priorities include community safety, economic development, environmental issues and constituent services. His outstanding accomplishments and efforts to improve his community are inspiring and worth honoring.

TRIBUTE TO WEST GENESEE VARSITY BOYS AND GIRLS LACROSSE TEAMS

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the high achievements of the boys and girls lacrosse teams from West Genesee High School. For the second year in a row, both teams battled their way to the New York State Class A Lacrosse State Championships, and brought home the title.

Having won the title for the third year in a row, the girls team also earned the honor of being the first Division I team ever to take home three successive state championships. Led by Coach Bob Elmer, the Lady Wildcats completed their season by adding number 67 to their ongoing winning streak.

The boys' team acquired the 12th state title in West Genesee boys lacrosse history. Coached for the last 28 years by Mike Messere, this team has a lot to be proud of, having beaten the No. 1 ranked team in the state.

On behalf of the people of the entire 25th District of New York State, I would like to congratulate the following champions on their incredible victories:

Girls: Eileen Gagnon, Samantha Falcone, Kelsey Campbell, Shannon Burke, Meghan Burgoon, Katie Donovan, Lyndsay Moore, Jacquie Griffin, Kendall Tupper, Betsy Bubnack, Kelly Nelson, Coileen O'Hara, Ashley Didio, Kathryn Keneally, Julie Fabrizio, Eireann Byrne, Lauren Delprato, Beth Elmer, Lindsay Hamann, Jamie Boulton, Kelly Duffy, Lisa McCarthy, Keelin Hollenbeck, Lori Pietraszek, Head Coach Bob Elmer and Assistant Coach Dan Hallinan;

Boys: Mike Malfitano, David Osier, Joel Derrigo, Brian Cast, Jake Moulton, Jed Bebee, Josh Begley, Kevin Hennigan, Brian Stanton, Andrew Hanover, Alex Bily, Cheney Raymond, Dan Bolestra, Pat McCormack, Jeff Murphy, Drew Dabrowski, Tom Donahue, Kiel Moore, Michael Paul Solomon, Marc Cizenski, Andrew Sugar, Bill Gleason, Casey Rotella, Chris Bulawa, Brian Cummings, Chris Duffy, Sean Leahy, Brian Calabrese, Bob Toms, Michael Malone, Mark Keida, Matt Cassalia, Tom Geiss, Head Coach Mike Messere, and Assistant Coach Bob Deegan.

FISHING QUOTA STANDARDS ACT
OF 2003

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues Mr. ROBERT SIMMONS, Mr. WILLIAM DELAHUNT, Mrs. LOIS CAPPS, Mr. MICHAEL CAPUANO, Mr. SAM FARR, Mr. EDWARD MARKEY, Mr. GEORGE MILLER, and Ms. LYNN WOOLSEY in introducing the "Fishing Quota Standards Act of 2003."

From 1996 until 2002, Congress placed a moratorium on new quota programs, programs which place limits on the amount of the total allowable catch that a fisherman may harvest within a particular fishery. The purpose of the moratorium was to protect fishermen, coastal communities, and the marine environment from the negative effects of unregulated quota systems by giving Congress an opportunity to develop national standards. When left unchecked, quota systems can give unfair advantages to the highest bidder—leaving the family fishermen out in the cold. Quota programs can also create over-consolidation of the industry, negative impacts on local communities and individual fishermen, and over-harvesting of the resource. When the moratorium expired last September, no national standards had been put in place, leaving regional fishery management councils free to develop new quota programs.

That is why we are introducing the "Fishing Quota Standards Act of 2003." This Act allows for the establishment of fishing quota systems if they allocate quota fairly among fishermen, prevent excessive consolidation, and include management measures designed to ensure

the sustainability of the fishery. Both quota systems and share holders must come under periodic review to ensure adherence to the goals of the program. Standards legislation must be passed as soon as possible to avoid any future negative results from quota systems developed without any standards at all.

This Act allows for the establishment of fishing quota systems within a fishery management plan or plan amendment if such systems:

Are voted on and approved by fishermen who hold a permit to fish in the fishery and crew who derive seventy-five percent of their income from the fishery subject to the proposed fishing quota system.

Include management measures designed to ensure the sustainability of the fishery and provide additional and substantial conservation benefits to the fishery.

Allocate quota to distribute the public resource fairly.

Not allow anyone to hold an excessive share of quota.

Reserve an allocation to new entrants into the fishery.

Minimize, to the maximum extent practicable, negative social and economic impacts of the system on local communities.

Ensure adequate enforcement, management, and data collection of the system.

Be effective for a set period, 7 years. A system can be altered or renewed to respond to fishery management issues and to ensure the sustainability of fish stocks.

NATIONAL RIVER MUSEUM AND AQUARIUM GRAND OPENING

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my deepest congratulations to a community I have had the honor of representing since I took office in January of 1991. Tomorrow Dubuque, Iowa will pass a milestone in its history with the official opening of its National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium.

The Mississippi River has already drawn more than 1 million visitors to the City of Dubuque. This community chose to make its story of the river a cornerstone of urban renewal by investing millions of dollars to revitalize the river front. The June 28 opening represents the community's dedication to growing its tourism industry. For more than 12 years Dubuque has worked to create a world-class center to educate residents and tourists alike about the Mississippi River, its science and cultural history.

This project enjoys rare, unified and vigorous support from local government, the business community, and residents. During difficult economic times in the 1980s, the people of Dubuque came to understand all too well that being subject to a single economic sector's peaks and valleys hinders a city's self-sufficiency. The years of planning for the museum have been a catalyst for change by redirecting the economy toward tourism and making Dubuque a more viable community. Significant changes are happening in the area adjacent to the museum known as the Port of Dubuque. These changes include The Grand Harbor Re-

sort and Waterpark, a new riverwalk, a community amphitheater, and a conference center.

Enthusiasm for this project has been infectious. It has spread to Main Street where activities are beginning to flourish with the opening of new businesses, including several new restaurants. The entire business community in Dubuque and the surrounding area is already seeing a positive economic impact due to this project. Dubuque's spirit of partnership, community pride and determination have helped the city to grow. They have found a way to tie together Iowa's best strengths—our people and our rich natural resources—to serve as an example to other cities of what can be accomplished.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to personally commend Mayor Terry Duggan and other local elected officials for their leadership in Dubuque's revitalization. Additionally, this project would not be possible without the very diligent work of Jerry Enzler and Teri Goodmann. Thanks in large part to Jerry's work, the museum is now an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and last year was named by the U.S. Department of Transportation to be the official interpretive center for the Mississippi's Great River Road. Dubuque has been well served by Mayor Duggan, the city council, Jerry, Teri, and the countless others who have been undaunted in their efforts to obtain financial assistance for the museum from individuals, private industries and government officials.

I am proud to have played a part in making this project a reality and look forward to attending the Grand Opening. I believe Dubuque serves as a great example of what a community can do when it identifies goals and pursues them. At one time the phrase often used in the city was, "will the last person out please shut off the lights?" What a difference less than 20 years have made! The city now calls itself, "Masterpiece on the Mississippi." It is truly a masterpiece of natural beauty, historical value, and residents bursting with pride and enthusiasm. Dubuque, your lights are on for the whole world to see and experience.

SUPREME COURT RULING ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IS A JUST, FAIR DECISION IN SOCIETY WHERE RACIAL DISPARITY IS STILL THE ROOT OF MANY PROBLEMS

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my joy over the 5-4 ruling by the United States Supreme Court that favors affirmative action based on race. It is the right decision at the right time. The Supreme Court ruling on affirmative action is a just, fair decision in a society where racial disparity continues to feed problems rooted in racial injustice. It is the right decision at the right time.

On Monday, the Supreme Court announced its ruling in a case where white applicants sued the University of Michigan law school, alleging the use of race was an illegal quota system. The case, *Grutter v. Michigan*, has been called the most important civil rights case in 25 years because it challenged the use of racial preferences in school admissions.

While we lost on points, or a point system used to help minorities compete for slots, the decision by the high court affirms the United States Constitution on the side of balancing the scales of fairness, not on the side of continuing the unfairness built into a system that allows the racially privileged to continue their reign.

The white ruling class in America was built in large part on slavery and its aftermath—slave wages, and as long as America depends on the beneficence of gatekeepers who are insensitive to the history of this nation and the long-term effects of American apartheid, then the problem of racial disparity will continue.

Affirmative action is one tool that can help make-up for years of deprivation by helping people of color hurdle racial pitfalls in less time than would normally take many more generations to remove," he said. To wait for the goodness of human nature to rise to the top and result in racial fairness, is not judicious governance. It took the courts to help undo segregation and it will take the courts to help maintain justice. Sometimes only laws compel people to do the right thing. Without compulsion, many people of all races will submit to whatever decisions that favors them, even decisions made at the expense of weaker, less fortunate, powerless people.

Good law creates balance and for these times, affirmative action is good law. It addresses the needs of a disparaged group that has been historically discriminated against based on race. To overlook that reality is to impose a new form of segregation. According to Pete Williams, NBC news correspondent for MSNBC News, the 5-4 ruling that favored the university's law school, noted that "race can be one of many factors that colleges consider when selecting their students, while, at the same time, knocking down a similar lawsuit over the university's undergraduate program."

An Associated Press summary said the two split decisions means "minority applicants may be given an edge when applying for admissions to universities, but limited how much a factor race can play in the selection of students. The high court struck down a point system used by the University of Michigan, but did not go as far as opponents of affirmative action had wanted. The court approved a separate program used at the University of Michigan law school that gives race less prominence in the admissions decision-making process."

In April, I noted that affirmative action today really means affirmative access for minorities, a group of Americans that was systemically denied access to education and society in general, for hundreds of years.

What I don't think some people realize is that affirmative action is not new. While affirmative action seems like something out of the ordinary, historically, it is not new.

Segregation was affirmative action for whites. And when it comes to getting into college, there is affirmative action (even quotas) for athletes, intellectuals, artists and the children of the rich, just to name a few categories. Only when minorities were added to the list of beneficiaries has affirmative action become a problem."

Former U.S. Education Secretary Richard W. Riley noted in mid-2002 that a study published by the Educational Testing Service, entitled "Crossing the Great Divide," stated that

by the year 2015 the nation's college campuses will be missing 250,000 African Americans and 550,000 Hispanic undergraduates, "because we did not prepare them to do college-level work. (If) the economy continues to demand ever-higher skills for good jobs, minorities will have to run faster just to stay in place."

Mr. Speaker, we know we cannot easily legislate away racism in the heart and minds of people. However, you can legislate and interpret in the courts, a road map that bypasses individual racism and institutionalizes opportunity and affirmative access, for all. Racism in America does not exist in isolation. It's systemic existence calls for affirmative action regarding race if we are to keep the doors open for those who were once summarily denied entrance to a chance to live better lives.

REGARDING LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON INTELLIGENCE ABOUT IRAQ

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to establish the Independent Commission on Intelligence about Iraq. This Commission is necessary to restore the confidence of the American public and the international community regarding the Bush Administration's use of intelligence information about Iraq.

I am joined in introducing this bill by Representative MARTIN FROST, Representative RON KIND, and 20 other members who supported President Bush when he asked for congressional authorization to use force in Iraq. We were allies of the President when he wanted authority to go to war. And we are allies of the President today in the ongoing fight against terrorism.

For us, this issue is not about whether we were right to go to war in Iraq. We voted for the war resolution. And it is not about whether biological or chemical weapons will ultimately be found in Iraq. Instead, we are introducing this bill because it is now clear we had an inexcusable breakdown in our intelligence system prior to the Iraq war. We need to know how and why this happened, so that we can make sure it never happens again.

We need to know whether the breakdown was caused by problems within our intelligence agencies, and whether they failed to do their jobs competently and responsibly. If, as some in the Administration have hinted, essential information was withheld from the President, we need to discover who did that and hold them accountable.

If we find that the intelligence community did their job well, then we need to know whether Bush Administration officials either ignored or misused the intelligence information. At the end of the day, regardless of the consequences, we need to know what went wrong.

We can't avoid the responsibility. President Bush is leading us in a new doctrine of preemptive warfare. While there is obviously disagreement over the merits of this approach, there is unanimity that preemptive warfare's

essential ingredient is accurate intelligence. It can't be founded on theory or suspicion—it needs fact. Without that, the world will be unable to distinguish preemptive warfare from ordinary aggression.

The House and Senate Intelligence Committees have already begun the process of assessing the intelligence community's performance, and the Independent Commission we would create here would supplement that valuable effort.

It appears, however, that the Intelligence Committees will not be assessing how the Bush Administration used the intelligence information it received. Representative PORTER GOSS, the Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said, "I'm not going into what the customer did with the intelligence." I disagree with that approach, and that review will also be an important part of the Independent Commission's responsibilities.

It is profoundly important that the President, the Vice President, and other senior Administration officials accurately portray intelligence information. There is no question more grave than whether our Nation should go to war. When the topic is whether to commit our armed forces to battle, Congress and the American public need to be able to rely unquestioningly on the accuracy and veracity of the information from the President and other Administration officials.

Unfortunately, serious concerns have already been raised regarding how the Bush Administration handled intelligence information on threats posed by Iraq in the months leading up to the conflict. One of the main questions that has emerged is whether White House officials manipulated or deliberately ignored key intelligence on Iraq. The Administration's responses to date have been incomplete and inconsistent, and have raised a host of new questions.

For months, I have been asking a simple question: Why did the President cite forged evidence about Iraq's efforts to obtain nuclear materials from Africa in his State of the Union address?

Yet I have been unable to get an answer to this basic question. Instead, the Administration has provided only murky and conflicting explanations regarding the use of forged evidence by the President and other top Administration officials.

The first Administration explanation, as described in the Washington Post on March 8, 2003, was "we fell for it."

But we now know that wasn't true. Multiple press accounts have reported that CIA analysts doubted the validity of the evidence long before the President's State of the Union address and had communicated those doubts to the White House. Other press accounts have reported that State Department analysts also concluded in 2002 that the evidence was bogus.

National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice then asserted that "maybe someone knew down in the bowels of the agency, but no one in our circles knew that there were doubts and suspicions that this might be a forgery."

But this also doesn't appear accurate. According to a June 30, 2003, New Republic article entitled "The Selling of the Iraq War: The First Casualty," Vice President Cheney's office had received the forged evidence from the British in 2002 and had provided it to the CIA; the CIA in turn had dispatched a former am-

bassador to Africa to check its validity; the ambassador determined the evidence was unreliable; and the CIA communicated this report to the Vice President's office.

Other accounts, such as those by Nicholas Kristof in the New York Times, reach the same conclusion. According to a June 13, 2003, Knight Ridder News Service report by Jonathan Landay: "Three senior administration officials said Vice President DICK CHENEY and some officials on the National Security Council staff and at the Pentagon ignored the CIA's warning and argued that Bush and others should include the allegation in their case against Hussein."

The White House has asserted that the President's State of the Union address was closely vetted by intelligence officials. But if this is so, what did these officials communicate to the President and his White House advisors and how did the White House respond? NPR has reported that early drafts of the President's State of the Union address that contained the forged evidence were reviewed by senior intelligence officials, who objected to the inclusion of the evidence. According to NPR, the White House ignored their objections. Instead, the White House response was to keep the forged evidence in the speech, but to change the wording so that the evidence was attributed to British sources.

Another question raised by the official White House account is why the White House hasn't taken disciplinary action against the CIA Director and other intelligence officials. If the White House was kept in the dark about something as fundamental as forged nuclear evidence—as Condoleezza Rice maintains—this would be an extraordinarily serious failure by the intelligence community. Shouldn't those responsible face equally serious consequences?

Other significant questions regarding the forged documents remain unanswered. For example, in some statements, the Administration has asserted that "additional evidence" supported the claim about Iraq's attempts to purchase uranium in Africa. Yet the only evidence the Administration provided to the IAEA to support its claims was the forged documents. And despite my repeated requests for this other evidence, the Administration has yet to provide it. What is the other evidence? And why didn't the President and other Administration officials cite to it instead of to the forgeries?

And then there is the question of the December 19 fact sheet by the State Department. This fact sheet—which received front-page coverage in the media—repeated the fake evidence that Iraq sought to import uranium from Africa. When I wrote the President about this, the State Department responded as follows: "The December 19 fact sheet was a product developed jointly by the CIA and the State Department."

But according to a senior intelligence official quoted in the Washington Post, the CIA objected to the inclusion of the fake evidence in the State Department fact sheet but the objection "'came too late' to prevent its publication."

Both of these accounts can't be right.

A broad, independent investigation is necessary to answer questions like these. That is why we are proposing a nonpartisan Commission on Intelligence about Iraq. This Commission would examine the collection, evaluation, and use by the Administration of Intelligence

on threats posed by Iraq, and make recommendations to Congress and the President regarding steps to enhance the accuracy of intelligence and representations regarding intelligence. The Commission would have the ability to recommend that its findings be made public.

Unlike with congressional committees examining intelligence on Iraq, no political party would have an advantage on the Iraq Commission. Based on the model of the 9/11 Commission which was thoroughly vetted by Congress, the Commission on Intelligence about Iraq would be composed of five members appointed by Republicans and five appointed by Democrats.

Some have tried to deflect efforts to explore questions about the handling of intelligence on Iraq as "revisionist history" or equated such efforts with questioning the war in Iraq. This is misdirected criticism. The purpose of the Commission is simple: to understand the truth.

The Commission's effort should proceed regardless of whether one agrees or disagrees with the ultimate decision to wage war in Iraq, and regardless of whether biological or chemical weapons ultimately are found there. The credibility of our government will remain in jeopardy if we do not resolve doubts regarding the handling of classified information on Iraq.

COMMENDING THE SAN MATEO
POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the San Mateo Police Department, whose creative and effective policing strategies over the past decade merit recognition and praise by this body.

Law enforcement is one of the principal functions of responsible government, and the duties of a police department are as vital as they are numerous. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the enormous strains police departments nationwide are currently experiencing, with their budgets shrinking even as their responsibilities multiply. New antiterrorism duties have been met in many cases not, Mr. Speaker, by additional funds, but by service and pay cuts, as the present Administration and Congressional leadership undermine our nation's Finest with their irresponsible theology of tax cuts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking the police departments of America for their selfless and courageous service in this most trying time for our nation, and in offering our sympathy as they work hard to make America safe.

The San Mateo Police Department stands out among police departments nationally as a paragon of public service and public sensitivity, and has worked creatively to forge partnerships with the community.

Mr. Speaker, the SMPD has made tremendous strides in recent years. During the period from 1997 to 2002, the overall crime rate in San Mateo plummeted 8 percent and there was not a single murder in the city of nearly 100,000 people. The SMPD's hard work has clearly paid off, and in addition to lower crime rates, it has yielded dividends that cannot be quantified.

Ten years ago, Mr. Speaker, the SMPD launched a Community Oriented Policing program, with the ambitious goal of improving the quality of life for every single person who lives and works in the City of San Mateo. The Department sought to accomplish this task by engaging the individuals, businesses, and local service organizations of San Mateo, as well as appropriate outside governmental agencies, and their approach has been enormously successful.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the San Mateo Police Department has been incredibly innovative in its efforts to reach out to the community. Among the more creative initiatives launched by the SMPD in recent years is the Citizen-Police Ride-Along Program, in which San Mateo residents accompany an officer in a police cruiser in order to get a sense of what a police patrol is like. In addition, Mr. Speaker, the SMPD has teamed up with San Mateo Parks & Recreation to form the Police Activities League (PAL), an organization with support from the State of California that helps promote trust and understanding between cops and kids. Six years into the program, the verdict is in and it is unambiguous: PAL has been an unqualified success and has contributed to a marked improvement in relations between youth and law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to single out San Mateo Chief of Police Susan E. Manheimer for her leadership and her commitment to the principles of equality, professionalism, justice, and the highest standards of ethics. I have the utmost confidence that her commitment to a focused approach of Problem Oriented Policing will further reduce crime in the City of San Mateo and contribute generally to a better quality of life in the area, and I congratulate her on the Department's accomplishments under her stewardship.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sincerest and most heartfelt congratulations to police officers Bob Szelenyi and Fred Haney on their promotion to the rank of Sergeant in the San Mateo Police Department. I have known Bob personally since his infancy, and consider him a man of great character, industry, and integrity. In his decade and a half on the force, Mr. Speaker, Bob has established himself as a leader in mediation and negotiation, and is held in the highest regard for his involvement with San Mateo youth.

Officer Szelenyi has been awarded multiple public service awards for his work with kids, Mr. Speaker, and has earned the respect of his colleagues and many others in my district and the entire Bay Area for his successful negotiation of a gang truce several years ago. That truce prevented countless acts of violence and untold suffering, and we are all eternally indebted to him for his hard work on behalf of the lives and safety of the people of San Mateo.

While I did not have the privilege of watching Mr. Haney take his first steps, Mr. Speaker, I am familiar with his work because his remarkable contributions to the community of San Mateo are so well-known. I am proud that he is one of the top officers defending my community, and I believe his work in preventing gang violence, both as an individual officer and as a member of a special gang task force, contributed to the drop in crime my community has enjoyed over the past five years. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Mr. Haney on his work at the

frontier of digital evidence and high-tech crimes. He is a model public servant, and I salute him.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my warmest congratulations to the San Mateo Police Department, Police Chief Manheimer, and Sergeants Szelenyi and Haney, and my unending thanks to them for their service to the people of San Mateo. I wish them Godspeed.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2555) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill. This is the first appropriations bill for the new Department and there are few legislative issues that will have as great an impact on our nation.

As many of my colleagues are aware, I have continually expressed concern over inadequate funding available for first responders. I introduced legislation in both this, and the 107th Congress to remedy this funding shortfall. So, when I first reviewed this legislation, I was pleased to note that it provides \$888 million more to first responders than the President requested. However, the CBO estimates that with price increases in the current fiscal year, this legislation, in real dollar terms, is about \$150 million below current levels. The proposed legislation is clearly inadequate to provide the homeland security we need.

This is especially alarming given the fact that the states are suffering their worst fiscal crisis since World War II. The National Governors' Association reports that 46 states have significant revenue shortfalls, and that several have shortfalls in excess of \$1 billion. Homeland Security is one of our most critical national priorities, and yet this Administration is determined to offer \$350 billion in new tax breaks.

A number of critical security shortfalls are not addressed in this legislation. For instance, the U.S. Coast Guard estimates that to adequately secure our ports with cameras and other security measures will cost approximately \$4.4 billion, yet this bill provides only \$100 million for this initiative. In addition, there are no funds in this bill to improve methods of inspecting people and cargo entering this country through our ports. Nor are their any funds to increase the number of containers inspected. According to nearly every expert in the field of security, these areas have been severely neglected since 9/11.

With the budget deficit projected at more than \$400 billion this year, a few billion more for homeland security won't matter very much. I urge my colleagues to carefully consider what a "yes" vote will mean for a number of Amendments that will be introduced later

today. True, they will increase the cost of this legislation, but more importantly, they will increase our national security, which is what this bill is fundamentally supposed to accomplish.

H.R. 2035, THE IDENTITY THEFT
AND FINANCIAL PRIVACY ACT

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to add my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 2035, the Identity Theft and Financial Privacy Act.

As Congress begins the process of reauthorizing various provisions of the Fair Credit Reporting Act FCRA, I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting measures that help protect people from the growing problem of identity theft. Consumers' private financial information should be carefully guarded, and Congress must act promptly to ensure that credit bureaus provide individuals with updated, accurate information about their credit reports.

H.R. 2035 is an important first step in Congress's efforts to prevent identity theft. By requiring consumer reporting agencies to provide free credit reports annually upon the request of a consumer, this legislation will allow individuals to detect identity theft at an early stage, before their credit reports are permanently damaged. Such reports can be the determining factor behind financial institutions' decisions to extend credit for the purchase of homes and durable goods such as cars and home appliances. Credit reports damaged by stolen identity and fraud can prevent hard working individuals and families from building better lives and attaining the desirable goals of home ownership and financial security.

To that end, I am pleased that H.R. 2035 includes a provision that would require credit card issuers to confirm change of address requests if such a request is received within 30 days of a request for an additional card, and would amend the FCRA to require consumer reporting agencies to notify requesters of potential fraud when the request includes an address for the consumer that is substantially different from the most recent address on file with the consumer reporting agency.

Finally, by requiring the truncation of credit card numbers on printed receipts, H.R. 2035 will curtail a common method by which identity theft so often occurs. In many instances, criminals have easy access to individuals' credit card numbers simply by viewing those numbers on printed receipts. In 2001, 73 percent of American households had at least one credit card, making a large segment of the country vulnerable to having their financial information stolen. This legislation will thwart a significant number of would-be identity thieves by blocking most of the numbers in a person's credit card account, thereby preserving and protecting sensitive, private financial information for the vast majority of the public.

Congress has a responsibility to help the American people, and our national economy, prosper. Strengthening financial privacy laws and preventing identity theft will help to achieve these goals, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the Identity Theft and Financial Privacy Act.

RECENT RUSSIAN PURCHASE OF
AMERICAN MINE REPRESENTS
FREE MARKET SUCCESS BENE-
FITTING BOTH COUNTRIES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, after the fall of the infamous Berlin Wall and break up of the Soviet Union, I advocated a Marshall Plan for Russia and the former Soviet Republics to demonstrate that democracy and a market economy is the better way for our former adversary.

It is one thing to win the Cold War but quite another to vastly improve the lives of ordinary citizens who have never known freedom. Regrettably, our government did not seize the opportunity then and instead opted for smaller and fragmented programs to encourage private sector investment.

Although we could and should have done more, a new generation of Russian entrepreneurs is boldly moving that country to a vibrant market economy, contributing to Russia's unlikely status as the world's leading growth economy of 2003.

One of the most impressive examples is the Russian oil company, YUKOS, which under the able leadership of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, has become one of the largest and best operated energy companies in the world. This is good news for Americans, in that future oil imports from Russia will significantly reduce our energy dependence on the volatile Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, another striking example of positive change in Russia today can be found in corporate governance. Business leaders, such as Mr. Khodorkovsky and Mr. Vladimir Potanin, head of INTERROS, Russia's largest private investment company, are pressing the issue of corporate responsibility and working to set standards to insure reform and good governance to help pave the way for Russia's membership in the WTO.

The clearest sign of Russia's emergence as a player in the world economy is the recent acquisition by the Russian mining giant, Norilsk Nickel, of the Stillwater Mining Company in Montana, the largest acquisition by a Russian company in the United States.

Norilsk Nickel brings experience and a first-rate management team to complement the Montana plant's operation and competitive position. This new synergy will bring benefits to both companies, the Stillwater shareholders and workers, and the consumers—the U.S. auto industry, who depend on both plants for the palladium it uses in catalytic converters.

The transaction passed muster with two Federal agencies. The Administration's inter-agency group that looks at security-related issues on all foreign acquisitions in the U.S., and the Federal Trade Commission that scrutinizes impact of such transactions on consumers. The Stillwater shareholders also voted overwhelmingly in favor of the purchase.

Only a few years ago, it would have been all but impossible to imagine the U.S. government approving the sale of an American mining company that holds claims on the only significant sources of platinum and palladium outside of South Africa and Russia. These two precious metals are the key ingredients in the

automotive catalytic converters used to scrub pollution from exhaust emissions. They also are vital components in a wide-range of electronics and, of course, in fine jewelry as well.

Commercial transactions, such as the Norilsk Nickel-Stillwater acquisition are important to Russia. Operating on a global scale and in tune with accepted rules of Commerce and good corporate governance and also demonstrates that major East-West investments is opening the doors to opportunity for both sides.

Mr. Speaker, we need to encourage this kind of economic collaboration and rally the forces of a free market that make it possible. We should applaud the vision and dynamic leadership of Russia's new entrepreneurs and the implicit support accorded by our respective governments to encourage these bold initiatives.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNSON COUNTY,
KANSAS, CHRISTMAS BUREAU

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate the Johnson County Christmas Bureau for their great work in helping the needy in our community. The Johnson County Christmas Bureau is a nonprofit organization that has been bringing Christmas joy and holiday assistance to thousands in the Kansas City area for nearly forty years.

Working out of a donated office with donated storage space, every year the Bureau puts together a "Christmas shop" for the disadvantaged, where each eligible family member can get a gift, a new item of clothing, personal items, used coats and a wide array of groceries. Each individual can choose his or her items, preserving the dignity of the family while bringing joy to those in need. The Bureau has received most of its funding through individuals, schools and church organizations—they strive to keep their overhead low so that more money may be used to provide a Merry Christmas to the needy.

I want to recognize the great contribution that the Johnson County Christmas Bureau has made to the Kansas City community and to the many lives which they have brightened. Last year, the Bureau helped over eight thousand families and this year they expect to serve many more. The many people who volunteer numerous hours from their busy lives for the Christmas Bureau, just to see the joy on the faces of others, remind us how fulfilling charity can be. It is my pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD this tribute to the good works of the Johnson County Christmas Bureau.

IN HONOR OF VIRGINIA FRANCO

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to recognize and honor Virginia Franco on her retirement after 23 years as an

elementary school teacher with the San Diego Unified School District. She may be retiring from teaching, but she is definitely not retiring as a community leader.

Virginia was raised in Camarillo, CA. She was widowed while still a young woman, and came to San Diego in 1971. She began her liberal arts studies at San Diego State University, and it was there that I met her.

Virginia has managed to combine her career as a dedicated teacher of second and third grade students and mother of three children with a second career as a San Diego Educators' Association (SDEA) union activist and community leader. Over the years, she has been involved in more causes and struggles than can be mentioned here. Among them are opposition to the Pinochet dictatorship in Chile, support for victims of the death squads in El Salvador, support for affirmative action, and participation in voter registration campaigns for new citizens.

Virginia's activism continues to the present. As part of the Older Women's Project, she demonstrated against the invasion of Iraq. She is working with the San Diego labor movement to bring about a living wage ordinance for the city of San Diego. She is a leader in her labor union, the SDEA, having held the position of Human Rights Chair, an elected delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly in 2001, and is currently a member of the Political Involvement Committee.

On the occasion of her retirement, Virginia wrote a farewell letter to the parents of her students. This letter expresses as well as anyone can the reasons she tries so hard to help create a better world.

The letter reads:

DEAR PARENTS: Our last day is upon us at Clay Elementary School. We, in Room 4, have been working hard to become prepared for the challenges ahead. These few years, particularly, have been trying times in news and heavily concentrated in the area of education. For many of us, working more hours to fulfill our responsibilities for our children have become necessary. The world has entered our homes in the news, and much of it is difficult for us to understand. In our schools, we are wondering how our children will fare with the problems that concern public education due to difficult economic times in the state of California. Yet, in spite of these extraordinary times, Room 4 students have been working cooperatively to prepare for the difficult times by doing their part as better readers and citizens in order to meet those challenges.

We have learned in reading that nonfiction literature—biography, science, and social studies—help us learn about the past in order to understand the present in the hopes of preparing for a better future. We learned that reading for understanding of past and present history helps us prepare to make those decisions. We are aware that this preparation will help us work toward a time, seemingly far away, but necessary, in order to preserve better conditions of life for our families, our communities, and possibly for those whom we don't know in other parts of the world.

Our world needs fixing. By reading about the environment, we learned that many studies are possible to help us prepare for knowledge and understanding about pollution and saving our natural resources. Careers in science and math will be necessary for making changes in these areas of studies. We are beginning to understand that it is of great importance to understand the present, in the hopes of affecting the future in posi-

tive ways. Social and environmental studies will help us to fix and create that better world.

We learned about early America and the struggles to build it. It took many kinds of citizens to change it for the better. We also learned that connection with other countries remains necessary to strengthen what we share now. Citizens here in America from all over the world are helping to enrich our way of life in their sharing of their cultures. Our students know that it is their job to continue their efforts to become those good, creative, and knowledgeable students to prepare for the challenges ahead.

Thank you for your part in seeing that your child continues to prepare to become that responsible citizen that you and I hope will contribute to our community. I have been privileged, hopefully, to help chart that course. It is especially meaningful for me this year of my retirement.

I look optimistically forward to your child's educational success in the future.

Most Sincerely,

VIRGINIA FRANCO,
3rd Grade Teacher.

This letter speaks to her commitment to the children she is teaching and to the larger community. Our world would be a better place if we all were as dedicated as Virginia. As she retires, I want to acknowledge a woman of conviction, dedicated both to her love of teaching and to her belief in the importance of individuals working to make a difference in this world.

My best wishes go to my good friend, Virginia Franco.

COMMENDING LEONARD R.
TOTORA

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride and admiration to commend Leonard R. Totoro for his service in the United States Army.

At this time of conflict, stories like those of Mr. Totoro remind us of the courage the members of our Armed Forces have always displayed and continue to display on a daily basis. They are a testament to the dedication, honor and strength of the men and women in uniform. They deserve to be praised for generations to come.

After enlisting in the army at the age of 17, Mr. Totoro attended the Army School of Photography and then spent two years in Europe as a member of the Signal Corps, filming motion pictures for the military. With the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950, Mr. Totoro was assigned to General MacArthur's headquarters in Japan.

In Korea, Mr. Totoro served above and beyond the call of duty when he volunteered to jump 35 miles behind enemy lines with the 187th Airborne Rangers. Unfortunately, with no prior parachuting experience or training, Mr. Totoro suffered severe injuries to his right leg and ankle. Knowing how important the footage he was capturing was, Mr. Totoro initially refused medical treatment and remained with the 187th Airborne Rangers for many more hours.

Upon hearing the news of his heroic effort on the battlefield, UN Supreme Commander

General Ridgeway awarded Mr. Totoro paratrooper wings with a Battle Star. In addition to his paratrooper wings, Mr. Totoro was awarded the Bronze Star for bravery against the enemy.

I commend Mr. Leonard Totoro for his dedication and service to his country and for the bravery, honor and valor he displayed during his service in the Army.

MAJOR GEORGE WINTON
THOMPSON

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, alumni of Woodrow Wilson High School Class of 1958 will congregate in Beckley, West Virginia. They gather to celebrate the 45 years passing after the graduation of 343 students.

My alma matter, Woodrow Wilson High School, so named in 1917, traces its roots to July 13, 1900. The school mascot is a flying bald eagle and the enrollment of the school is identified as the Flying Eagles. As the bald eagle is a majestic bird, it is also an independent creature. Eagles nest but they do not flock. It was therefore preordained that the alumni of this school separate and spread to the four corners of our great Nation and beyond.

The year 1958 represents a very different time with American citizens living under different standards. The Universal Military Training Act defined one of those standards. Under this Act, able-bodied male citizens past the age of 18 years were subject to six years of military training and duty. The United States Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps thereby benefited with the coming of age by Woodrow Wilson alumni. One chapter of the military contribution made by the Class of 1958 can be found in the Vietnam War. West Virginia sacrificed more sons on a per capita basis in the Vietnam War effort than any other state in the Union. Vietnam in wartime was where some 1958 graduates celebrated their 10th year beyond graduation. By the end of the Vietnam War, these alumni had returned to their homes and families, except one. This Flying Eagle was reported as missing-in-action on May 16, 1966, when the AC-47 gun ship he was navigating failed to return from a mission. At the time of his last action, the young man who had interrupted his studies at West Virginia University to serve his country held the rank of 1st Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. When the exchange of prisoners of war took place following the Vietnam War, this airman was not among the repatriated. During the following years, the airman's mother was encouraged by our government not to relinquish hope. She mailed letters and packages for years. None of the letters or packages were either acknowledged or returned. During these same years, the airman received posthumous promotions up to the rank of major. The mystery surrounding this Class of 1958 Flying Eagle was not resolved until November 24, 1999, when his recovered remains were positively identified. His remains, along with the remains of seven additional crewmembers on the ill-fated military aircraft, were obtained from the crash site during three separate collections during 1995, 1996, and 1997. The recovered remains of all eight crewmembers

were scant, as the plane had been consumed by flames upon crashing, followed by more than 30 years of deterioration in a jungle environment.

During the 34th year following his last day on Earth, this Woodrow Wilson High School alumnus was buried in Arlington National Cemetery, in common with the limited remains of his fellow crewmembers. Every Class of 1958 Woodrow Wilson High School classmate who served honorably in this Nation's Armed Forces gave something, but this one airman gave all for his country and in a greater sense, his family and his classmates. The Woodrow Wilson High School Class of 1958 alumni gathering in Beckley, West Virginia tomorrow wish to honor this classmate, Major George Winton Thompson, by having his name placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, as evidence he has yet to be forgotten. I hereby honor that request, as this is the first class reunion that the group has known the outcome of Major Thompson's story.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LEGACY ACT: LIVING EQUITABLY, GRANDPARENTS AIDING CHILDREN AND YOUTH

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to join my good friend Congressman JACK QUINN in introducing important legislation to help address an issue in our Nation that is only starting to receive national attention—grandparents raising their grandchildren.

According to recent data from the Census Bureau, the number of intergenerational families increased more than fifty percent between 1990 and 1998. It is estimated that more than 2.5 million grandparents across America are raising their grandchildren. Many of these children have parents who have passed away, are in prison, or are suffering from drug or alcohol addictions, while some have been taken out of abusive homes.

These intergenerational families or "Grandfamilies" live in rural areas, inner cities and suburbs. They come from all races and ethnicities, and live in every State in the Nation. Many of these grandparents survive on fixed incomes—social security, a small pension—and face not only the rising cost of prescription drugs, but also the cost of diapers, baby formula, toys, and school clothes.

Unfortunately, our Nation's housing policy has not kept up with the unique needs of these families. There are very few housing developments specifically designed for intergenerational families. The Grandfamilies House in Boston, Massachusetts in my Congressional District offers apartments with special features for both grandparents and children, including childproof kitchen cabinets and handicapped-accessible bathrooms. There are also activities for seniors and children, an outdoor playground and an on-site computer lab.

I am introducing the LEGACY Act in response to the growing number of communities throughout the Nation that have been working to build on the model of the Grandfamilies House in Boston. The title of the legislation was inspired by an Academy Award nomi-

nated documentary film chronicling the life of a grandmother raising her grandchildren and their struggle to move out of a Chicago housing project.

The legislation creates demonstration programs through both the Section 8 Housing Certificate Fund and the Section 202 Elderly Housing program. These demonstration projects will enable housing developers and advocacy groups additional flexibility in securing financing for this housing and providing ongoing services to intergenerational families.

In addition, the LEGACY Act clarifies that grandparents raising their grandchildren are eligible for family unification assistance, allows access to fair housing funds for education and outreach efforts about the legal issues surrounding many of these families. It also directs the Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide specialized training for their employees focused on grandparent- and other relative-headed families. Many grandparents do not have access to the services they and their grandchildren need. These training and outreach efforts will help raise the awareness of the unique issues these families face each day.

While this bill is a small step in recognizing the tremendous contributions of these grandparents, it is my hope that it will help bring this issue greater recognition. Affordable housing is only one of the many challenges these courageous grandparents face as they raise the next generation of Americans. Please join me in supporting these families by supporting the LEGACY Act.

HONORING STUART COHEN

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Stuart Cohen, a highly respected Emergency Transportation Specialist and Regional Emergency Planner for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Eastern Region. Stuart recently announced his retirement after 33 years of public service during which he was a pioneer in the fields of emergency planning and environmental protection.

Upon his graduation from Empire State College, Stuart began 27 years of employment for the United States Postal Service where he held many positions including Superintendent of Postal Operations and Safety Specialist. After his time with the Postal Service, Stuart joined the U.S. Coast Guard to serve as an Occupational Safety and Health Specialist, making many contributions to safety, including the development of the first consolidated Coast Guard electronic safety and health manual.

After his tenure with the Coast Guard, Stuart continued to serve his country through the FAA's Eastern Region. With the FAA, Stuart held many positions including Regional Emergency Planner and Environmental Protection Specialist. Stuart's many achievements with the FAA highlight his commitment to safety and the preservation of our environment. Stuart provided emergency's support at the 1996 Olympic games in Atlanta, led a support team during the Federal Emergency Management

Agency's (FEMA) 1998 Exercise, and managed Department of Transportation responses to major disasters. Stuart's commitment to the environment is just as impressive. He chaired the FAA Regional Environmental Network, authored the FAA Environmental Policy Manual, and met with airline industry official regarding environmental issues.

Stuart has received many honors and awards during his distinguished career. Most notably, Stuart's courageous and selfless response to the terrorist acts of September 11, 2001 earned him the FEMA Award for Service and the State of Virginia Award for Service.

While serving his country, Stuart has kept an active private life. He has been and continues to be involved in a number of organizations including the Nassau County Auxiliary Police, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and Volunteer Firefighters.

In his 33 years of public service, Stuart Cohen's dedication to public safety and environmental protection has helped shaped the great nation we live in today and made the country a safer, cleaner place for all. The people of the Fourth District of New York and all Americans thank him for his hard work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. I was absent June 4th through 12th for a family emergency. Had I been here, I would have voted "yes" on roll call votes 237–241, 246–251, 256, 259–264, 267–271, and 275 and "no" on roll call votes 236, 242–245, 252–255, 257–258, 265–266, and 272–274.

EDITORIAL BY MR. JOSEPH SZALAY ON DEFENDING FREEDOM

HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to enter into the RECORD an article written by Mr. Joseph Szalay, of South Bend, Indiana. A child of the political "powder keg" that was Eastern Europe in the early part of the twentieth century, Mr. Szalay has a vast amount of knowledge from which he paints a vivid picture of America's historical role in helping to liberate all those who want to be free. He tells of the many times, from World War I to the first Gulf War, when America took a stand against governments who enslave their people. A true embodiment of the American Dream, Mr. Szalay came to America from his native Hungary poor, illiterate, and alone. He built a fine tailor shop in South Bend, from which he recently retired. As a member of the greatest generation that saw this nation ascend to global prominence, we should value his perspective and revere his patriotism. I urge all of my colleagues to use this article as a reminder of the historical precedent set for the recent liberation of the Iraqi people.

[From the South Bend Tribune, April 27, 2003]

WORLD'S HISTORY SHOWS THAT U.S. POSITION IS RIGHT

(By Joseph Szalay)

As an American of European descent, I have strong reactions to this war and the anti-American sentiment I hear expressed both at home and abroad. It reminds me of a Hungarian proverb: "The dog barks but the caravan progresses."

In the former Serbia, the 1914 assassination of Crown Prince Ferdinand, son of Franz Joseph, Emperor of Austria-Hungary, ignited World War I.

In 1917, before that was over, revolutionaries took over Russia. This Communist revolution had been planned in Germany. A key piece of Communist strategy was to starve the people in order to subjugate them more easily. This plan also encompassed the Starvation of 12 million (out of 40 million) Germans.

How could such a plan work? Human beings have a drive to survive. Starving people do not care what form of government they have, as long as they can put enough in their stomachs to survive.

German nationalists were aware of the Communist plan. They knew that if Germany capitulated, all of Europe could easily become Communist. They reacted by turning the Communist strategy to their own advantage. When Hitler came to power in Germany, the first thing he did was to stop starvation by feeding the people. I vividly remember that many Hungarians and people from other neighboring countries went to work in Germany. So successful was his economy that Hitler's regime developed a plan to take over the whole world, beginning with Europe—just what the Russian Communists had originally planned. Hitler's slogan was "Deutschland uber alles—Germany (taking) over the world."

What is still incomprehensible to me is the sad sequel: Hitler forced the Jews into concentration camps and gas chambers and took over countries one by one: Austria, Poland, Hungary . . . where was France? Where was the rest of the free world? Because we did not stop Hitler's conquest at the beginning, stopping him later cost the lives of 85 million people and caused unthinkable suffering not only in casualties but in the destruction of irreplaceable historical and artistic treasures.

One result of that war was to destroy the bloc of neutral states which for centuries had been able to resist the expansion of Russia and Germany alike. Masterminded by the French, the peace plan after World War I created weak artificial "nations" such as Yugoslavia; thus it paved the way for the Second World War:

World War II gave the Russian Communists the opportunity to expand their influence, giving them a free path to world conquest, their original goal.

I knew all of this through my father's experience. As a young man, he was drafted and spent four years on the front lines. When the Second World War started, he was again drafted, along with my two older brothers. As soon as I turned 18, I was also drafted, leaving my mother home alone to raise my 13-year-old sister and 7-year-old brother. With God's help, I defected from the army, living in the forest like a hermit.

Only one government was able to rescue Europe from Nazism; the United States.

After World War II, the United Nations was initiated with noble hopes by France, England, the United States and the Soviet Union. What has become of those high ideals? The U.N. has become an impotent, socialistic, bureaucratic organization full of anti-American sentiment.

Where was the United Nations when people rose up demanding their God-given right of freedom in Poland, in Hungary, in Czechoslovakia? Thousands died, thousands were imprisoned, tortured or deported to Siberia while the United Nations stood by idle.

And what of the war in Vietnam? Did the United Nations move a hair to stop it? The Communists activated their propaganda machine, trying to divide Americans. World opinion expressed at the United Nations pressured the United States to pull out of Vietnam without winning a victory over Communism. Even after the American forces departed from Vietnam, neighboring Laos and Cambodia, millions were killed to "cleanse" the country. Where was the United Nations? Where were the "peace" demonstrators? Where were the human rights advocates?

While the United Nations was clueless, the United States took leadership in eliminating Communism, whose vulnerability had been demonstrated by the freedom fighters in Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. These uprisings had also shown the people's unquenchable thirst for freedom. President Reagan combined forces with the great spiritual leader and Polish hero Pope John Paul II to initiate the collapse of the "Evil Empire" of the Communist Soviet Union.

Notice that it was the United States, not the United Nations, that saved Europe yet another time.

When Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, it was the United States and its allies who fought and freed Kuwait. The United Nations decided that a cease-fire agreement in which Saddam promised to liquidate all his weapons of mass destruction was sufficient peace insurance. Of course, Saddam did not fulfill his obligations, but the United Nations was unable to enforce them. The United Nations did not even act when it became known that Saddam was using his arsenal of chemical weapons to eradicate his own people's fight for freedom.

Those who harbored hatred toward the United States were emboldened by the lame and indecisive attitude of the United Nations. The result? Sept. 11, 2001.

President Bush requested that the United Nations live up to its contractual obligation to defend the world against weapons of mass destruction.

There was a lengthy bureaucratic debate in which those nations whose freedom our country restored in World War II turned against the proposals of the United States. Those who had a financial interest in Saddam's rearmament blocked enforcement of the conditions imposed by the cease-fire agreement. Once again, the United States has been forced to act on its own to protect our country and the world from the danger of terrorist destruction.

On April 4, a headline in The Tribune read, "Former Soviet army generals helped Saddam with War strategy." Could this have something to do with Russia's reluctance to support any action against Saddam?

I have sketched this history to show how our country has always been willing to defend freedom, not only our own but that of the whole world. President Bush follows the example of the great presidents of the United States. He shows unwavering dedication to keeping his presidential oath. While other countries follow their economic interests, he stands tall, fulfilling his duty to God and country.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN SETH MICHAUD

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to United States Marine Captain Seth Michaud, who died on Sunday, June 22, 2003, in service to his country.

Seth Michaud was a resident of Hudson, Massachusetts, in my Congressional District. In 1994, he graduated from Hudson High School, where he excelled in both academics and sports. I supported Seth's application to the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD., and was proud when he was accepted, announcing the news at a town meeting that included his family, friends, and neighbors. Seth graduated from the Pensacola Naval Flight School in 1999, and was certified as a helicopter pilot in December, 2000.

At the time of his death, Capt. Michaud was a helicopter commander, killed when a B-52 dropped nine M117 general purpose bombs during a practice mission. Seth was watching the routine training exercise from atop a ridge on the Gondoria Range in northeastern Africa, off the coast of Djibouti. He was standing outside his CH-53E helicopter when the bomb exploded. Eight other service personnel were also injured. Seth Michaud had been assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461, based at New River Marine Corps in North Carolina.

Capt. Michaud and about 50 other personnel from Combined Joint Task Force—Horn of Africa were participating in training exercises that involved the coordination of aerial bombardment missions. This exercise was the fourth of its kind since the task force's arrival in December. The task force's mission is to lead the U.S. war on terrorism, by intercepting or disrupting terrorist operatives in that region of the world. Seth, like many other soldiers who have answered their nation's call to service, paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom and liberty.

Seth is survived by his loving wife Karen Marie, and their 18-month-old son, Ian. He also leaves his parents, Francis and Karen of Hudson, a brother, Ethan, and a sister, Samantha, as well as several other relatives and friends.

Seth Michaud was a United States Marine, a loving father, husband, son, and brother, and his commitment to his Nation and his family is one for which he will be forever remembered. His family knows that Seth's dedication to his service was of great value to him. They remember him for his photographic memory, his passion for flying, and his love for his family.

Capt. Seth Michaud served his family, his hometown, and his country, proudly and faithfully.

INTRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND ECONOMIC CONVERSION ACT OF 2003

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion Act of 2003 (NDECA). NDECA will require the United States to disable and dismantle its nuclear weapons when all other nations possessing nuclear weapons enact laws to do the same. NDECA further provides that when our nuclear weapons are dismantled, the resources used to support nuclear weapons programs would be diverted to our growing human and infrastructure needs, such as housing, health care, Social Security and the environment. I have introduced this bill every year following a ballot initiative in the District in 1993.

In addition to the economic cost of nuclear weapons, the weapons have increased as a destabilizing force in world affairs. North Korea, at least in part in response to stepped up aggressive talk and policies from the U.S., is expanding its nuclear capabilities. Following the Iraq War, Iran appears to be pursuing greater nuclear capability and resisting inspections. India and Pakistan have moved back from the precipice of several years ago but each remains poised with nuclear weapons.

The United States and the world community urgently need to redouble their efforts to obtain commitments to push back the new surge for nuclear proliferation. Our country would be able to better dissuade other nations who aspire to become nuclear powers if we ourselves were willing to take even greater initiative in dismantling our own nuclear weapons program. It is noteworthy that the Senate in March ratified the Moscow Treaty, which provides that by 2012 both the U.S. and Russia will reduce their long-range warheads two-thirds from approximately 6,000 warheads each to 2,200.

With 40 million people still without health care, Social Security without the benefits for the huge baby boomer generation, an economy teetering from the loss of 3 million jobs and millions more Americans pushed back out in poverty during the last three years, the time has come to begin the transfer of nuclear weapons funds to urgent domestic needs. In the 56-year period between 1940 to 1996, nuclear weapons spending exceeded the combined total Federal spending for education, training, employment, and social services; agriculture; natural resources and the environment; general science, space and technology; community and regional development (including disaster relief); law enforcement; and energy production and regulation.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MAYNARD HOLBROOK JACKSON, JR

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker. I was elected mayor of Macon in 1995. Macon is a town of

a little over 100,000 people just 80 miles or so south of Atlanta. One of the first things I did after my election was to visit with Maynard Holbrook Jackson, Jr.

Maynard Jackson was elected mayor of Atlanta in 1973 at the age of thirty-five, the first African-American mayor of a major city in Georgia as well as the southeast. He served two four-year terms and became known for promoting majority-minority partnerships to improve access for African-Americans to the world of contracting and supplying governments.

Maynard Jackson was elected again as mayor of Atlanta in 1989 and served one more term. When I went to see him as a newly elected mayor, it was to get his advice, any advice he would care to offer. I had no particular agenda, just a hope that he would impart some wisdom, given his experience in both government and business. Maynard Jackson spent hours of his time with me that day. Of course I cannot recall all that we spoke of, but I found his advice very valuable. I will always remember how cordial and engaged he was—someone who really didn't need to give me the time of day instead gave me several hours.

Maynard and I became friends who saw one another infrequently but who always responded quickly to one another's calls, e-mails or letters. The last time I spent any significant amount of time with him was just this February in Macon at the Georgia Music Hall of Fame for the opening of an exhibit honoring black classical musicians from Georgia. Maynard's aunt, Ms. Mattiwilda Dobbs, was the guest of honor for the occasion but Maynard was the star who could have easily stolen the show. Instead he remained out of the limelight, allowing his aunt to fully enjoy the attention she deserved as a world-famous artist, the first African-American soprano to perform at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York.

When I heard of Maynard's passing this Monday morning, I recalled that evening I spent with him in February at the Music Hall of Fame and I remembered one touching incident. We all were examining the memorabilia gathered for this exhibit honoring classical African-American artists of Georgia. The walls for this section of the museum were covered with photographs. Maynard grabbed my arm and pulled me toward one. It was a picture of the Morehouse College Glee Club that appeared quite old and, with great pleasure, Maynard pointed to one of the young men in the picture. It was his father, a father who had passed away when Maynard was quite young.

Now Maynard himself has passed away too young, leaving us in his prime but leaving a legacy of remarkable accomplishments for Atlanta and all of Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, it is right and just that this body honor Maynard Holbrook Jackson, Jr. with an appropriate resolution now being prepared by Representative LEWIS which I will co-sponsor with other members, including I'm sure, all members of the Georgia delegation.

Maynard Jackson will be sorely missed by his family and many friends. May he rest in peace knowing that his life has been well lived.

TRIBUTE TO LEON M. URIS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and memory of Leon Marcus Uris, the novelist and screenwriter who touched the lives of millions around the world. His unfortunate passing this week is a devastating loss to the world of literature and cinema and to thinking people and humanitarians everywhere.

The author of more than a dozen books and several screenplays, Leon Uris was best known for his *Gunfight at O.K. Corral*, which was universally heralded as an archetypal Hollywood Western, and his moving and humane account of the birth of the State of Israel, *Exodus*.

Mr. Speaker, *Exodus* became an international sensation immediately upon its publication in 1958, and was made into an enormously popular and critically acclaimed film two years later. Mr. Uris's *Exodus* is the story of the struggles and spirit of the Jewish people, a people who, persecuted and murdered in Europe, emerged from the Holocaust and fled and were expelled from hostile Islamic and Arab societies in the late 1940s and early 1950s to establish a state in their historic homeland, Israel, on land granted to them by the United Nations. I encourage all Members who have not yet read *Exodus* to read this eloquent and emotional account of a people's struggle for survival and freedom.

As a Jew who personally fought the Nazi occupation of Hungary and survived the Holocaust, I was deeply moved by Mr. Uris's books, many of which highlighted historical events of Jewish concern and the poignant and ongoing struggle for the survival of the State of Israel. Yet it would be unfair to pigeonhole him as a man concerned exclusively with Jewish issues. Mr. Uris was an unabashed champion of freedom and democracy, not just for Jews but for the Irish and oppressed groups worldwide whom he wrote and cared about.

Mr. Speaker, *Exodus* was Leon Uris's magnum opus and it was translated into dozens of languages and distributed clandestinely throughout the Soviet Union, where it became known in dissident circles simply as "The Book" and helped generate resistance against the Communist regime. The film version, directed by Otto Preminger and starring Eva Marie Saint and Paul Newman, drew attention to the plight of the State of Israel, a vibrant democracy and ally of the United States under assault from all sides. After enjoying success beyond all expectations both as a book and as a film, *Exodus* was reincarnated as a Broadway musical in 1971.

Many of Mr. Uris's books were sympathetic war novels, imbued with tales of courage and daring, as well as intrigue and romance. In addition to *Exodus*, I was especially moved by *Mila 18*, a heroic story he wrote in 1961 about the Warsaw ghetto uprising during World War II.

Leon Uris was an unusually creative and thorough practitioner of his craft. The New York Times noted in its obituary yesterday that in "preparing to write *Exodus* . . . [Mr. Uris] read nearly 300 books, underwent a physical-

training program in preparation for about 12,000 miles of travel within Israel and interviewed more than 1,200 people." The child of a first-generation Russian-American mother and a Polish immigrant father, Mr. Uris's pool of talent was seemingly bottomless, and his spirit indomitable, renewed daily by his commitment to the twin causes of freedom and justice, and propelled by a quintessentially American-immigrant zeal. A successful genius who rose from "hardscrabble beginnings," the Washington Post wrote in its epitaph yesterday, Mr. Uris was a man of uncommon and extraordinary character.

Mr. Speaker, Leon Uris was one of the great novelists of the twentieth century, and has secured his place among the intellectual and literary giants of our time. It is with great sadness and deep admiration that I bid farewell to Mr. Uris, and I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family.

TRIBUTE TO HERB ZOBEL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my district. Herb Zobel of Ouray, Colorado recently donated his time to aid 2,000 of his fellow biking enthusiasts as they pedaled through the Rocky Mountains for a good cause. In recognition of this dedication to community service, I would like to honor Herb here today.

Herb volunteered with "Ride the Rockies," a week-long tour of the beautiful Rocky Mountains of Colorado. Herb has participated in "Ride the Rockies" six times, an impressive athletic accomplishment, especially considering he is 74 years old. The riders pedal 35 to 100 miles daily, and although they pass through some incredible scenery, they must also pedal up some difficult mountain passes. By working as a Marshall for this year's event, Herb stood in the same spot for five to six hours every day to help direct riders through confusing parts of the route. He also dished out plenty of encouragement as the cyclists passed, since he understands how challenging the ride can be.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Herb Zobel here today. He exemplifies the spirit of community service that helped make this nation great. By donating his time to "Ride the Rockies," Herb selflessly helped 2,000 of his fellow riders stay fit, healthy, and happy. I congratulate Herb for his athletic achievements, commend him for his service, and wish him the very best for the future.

SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH
FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we have over 40 million people without health insurance today. Over the course of this year,

another 20 million or so will find themselves without healthcare coverage for some period of time. The lack of insurance leads to decreased access to care, decreased lifespan, and increased morbidity. When people do not have health insurance, they are more likely to have uncontrolled disease, and the suffering that goes with it. They are also more likely to end up in the hospital or emergency room. A small business that cannot afford to purchase a health plan will, therefore, have workers who are more likely to call in sick, or to need long-term sick leave. And in today's economic situation, many small business owners simply do not have the funds to meet the exorbitant costs of health insurance. So they are caught between a rock and a hard place.

The lack of affordable health insurance costs our nation billions in avoidable costs each year, and has made enormous health care bills the number one cause of bankruptcy for the American people. This is a devastating and complex problem. There is no easy answer to solving it; it will require a well-thought-out bipartisan approach to enact meaningful legislation to improve access to care. The legislation before us today is not all that it could be or should be. However, it is a step in the right direction, that we cannot afford not to take.

The federal government is not the only entity grappling with the challenges of getting adequate health insurance to the American people. States have been working on this issue for decades, and have brokered extensive agreements and regulations with the insurance industry to protect consumers. This legislation will exempt AHPs from those state regulations. This is misguided and dangerous. As we go to conference with the other body, we must work to ensure that we do not undo the good work that states have done in the past. AHPs can be an important piece to the health insurance puzzle, but they should not bypass the safety mechanisms that have protected patients for decades.

If this bill is signed into law as written, people in my state of Texas will lose the right to demand independent external review of their claims. AHPs will not be required to cover emergency services, or diabetes care, or mammograms, or to charge fair premiums to the old or sick. AHPs will also have the ability to "cherry pick," that is to offer inexpensive plans to some associations—maybe groups of fitness clubs or software companies that tend to be full of younger or healthier people—while gouging associations that employ more experienced workers, or the disabled. The CBO and the Urban Institute have issued studies that predict that AHPs would do little to improve the uninsured problem, and may actually make it worse—unless we make them responsive to the demands of state legislators.

The states have been quite successful in regulating the insurance industry and protecting their consumers. Why should we undermine that? The CBO and numerous other groups have predicted that this bill will destabilize the health insurance industry in America—and actually increase the number of people without insurance while raising the costs of those with it. That is why over 500 groups have expressed formal opposition to this bill, including the National Governors Association, both the Republican and Democratic Governors Associations, the AFL-CIO, physicians groups, providers groups, insurance trade as-

sociation, many chambers of commerce, and at least a hundred consumer/advocacy groups.

I am voting for this bill today, because our nation's small businesses need relief, and their employees desperately need health insurance coverage. I will follow this bill as it goes through conference. If we can find a way to harvest the good that AHPs can do, while protecting consumers from "cherry picking," or price gouging, or benefit reductions—by keeping AHPs under control of state regulations—I will proudly support the bill. If it comes back in the form it is in today, I will vote against it.

HONORING TOM RETZER, U.S.
NAVY SEAL

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, the flags of Kenosha County in Wisconsin will fly at half-staff in honor of U.S. Navy Seal Tom Retzer who was killed in the line of duty in the Near East on June 25, 2003. His father-in-law and mother-in-law live in Kenosha, and his wife and children reside in northern Virginia.

The loss of this brave U.S. serviceman saddens us and reminds us of the dangers our military men and women face every day as they work to protect our country and stand up for freedom. Throughout our nation's history, courageous individuals like Tom Retzer have been willing to put their lives on the line to defend our land and liberty. We owe them and their families our support and our deepest gratitude. Without them, America's freedom would be fleeting. We honor the memory of Tom Retzer and offer prayers for him and his family.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TERRY
MARSDEN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to recognize a great leader in the Mancos, Colorado community. After 10 years of service on the Mancos Library Board of Trustees, Terry Marsden is retiring from his position as President. In his five years in that post, Terry has been a dynamic force in the rapid evolution of the Mancos Public Library. As we recognize Terry's retirement, I commend him for his dedication and leadership within the community.

Terry Marsden's leadership has been an influential factor in the numerous enhancements made to the Mancos Public Library over the past 10 years. In his first few years on the Board of Trustees, Terry helped oversee the implementation of an automated circulation catalog system. During his time as President of the Board, Terry was also instrumental in providing for the renovation of the building, hiring additional staff and increasing the library's hours of operation, all in an attempt to make

the Mancos Public Library more user friendly. He also insured the addition of six patron computers in order to allow library patrons vital internet access.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Terry Marsden before you today for his commitment to his country. Terry embodies the spirit of public service and altruism that makes our communities strong. I congratulate Terry for his positive impact upon the Mancos community and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE HONORING ATLANTA'S
FIRST BLACK MAYOR, MAYNARD
H. JACKSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE-JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE-JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I pay tribute to the memory of a profoundly historical gentleman from Atlanta, Mayor Maynard H. Jackson. I would like to extend my greatest sympathy to the Jackson Family by taking a moment to reflect upon his rich life.

Although Mayor Jackson was born in Dallas, Texas, he grew up in Atlanta and finished high school at 14 years of age. He graduated from Morehouse College with honors at 18, and later, successfully pursued a law degree from North Carolina Central University.

Maynard Jackson reshaped Atlanta's power structure and made history, at age 35, when he was first elected Atlanta's first black mayor from 1974 through 1982. In 1990 he was re-elected with 80 percent of the vote and took office several months before the 1990 announcement that Atlanta had been chosen as host of the Summer Olympics. He's been widely acknowledged by his statement: "It is fitting and proper that Atlanta, not perfect but the best city in America, was chosen to host the Olympic Games."

Mayor Jackson's initial eight-year tenure in City Hall will be remembered most for his impact on the black business community. He was a champion of black business, evidenced by the affirmative action programs he implemented which increased the number of city contracts awarded to blacks and other under-represented groups by more than 30 percent. After he left his 1989 mayoral term, Jackson entered the business sector by forming Jackson Securities, an investment firm which now has offices in Atlanta, Houston, Miami, Orlando, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, and Chicago.

His family was active in early voting rights efforts. His grandfather, John Wesley Dobbs, was co-chairman of the Atlanta Negro Voters League, and his father, the Rev. Maynard H. Jackson Sr., was the first black to seek public office in Dallas, the former pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, and founded the Georgia Voters League. Maynard Jackson will be missed, but never forgotten for his enthusiasm, his vision and dedication towards leaving a legacy for a world of true cohesive diversity, and contributions to the City of Atlanta, Georgia.

THE BUDGET STILL DOES NOT
KEEP OUR PROMISE TO VETERANS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise to remind my colleagues that the proposed budget for our veterans is still woefully inadequate!

Flat-line budgeting for several years prevented the Veterans Health Administration from keeping up with inflation and increased demand. Enrollees in the VA health care system (VHA) have increased by almost 120 percent since 1996, going from 2.4 million to more than a projected 7 million in the coming fiscal year. During that same period, VHA per capita expenditures have decreased by 30 percent.

Had the level of funding kept up with the demand in inflation, the current VHA budget would be around \$36 billion rather than the \$25.3 billion requested by the Administration. Had adequate funding been in place, VA Secretary Anthony Principi would not have had to temporarily suspend enrollment for VA health care for many of our nation's veterans.

Veterans did not hesitate when called to service. I urge my colleagues to keep our promise to our nation's veterans when voting on the budget.

PAYING TRIBUTE JOE VIGIL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to Joe Vigil, a nationally known Cross Country/Track and Field coach. Joe helped to make Adams State College a powerhouse in track and he will soon be inducted into the Rock Mountain Athletic Conference Hall of Fame for his accomplishments. His hard work and dedication have influenced the lives of many college students and I am proud to recognize his accomplishments here today.

For 27 years, Joe led the Adams State teams to 18 National Championships and 89 individual championships. He coached 425 All-American runners, many of whom ended up competing on the national level. Recognized as one of the best coaches in the country, he is currently training some of the United States best runners for competition in the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece.

Joe's impact on student-athletes went beyond the track, however, as his runner's graduated at a rate of 96 percent. A quality college education will always be more important than any National title, a lesson Joe passed on to his teams.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand today and recognize the accomplishments of Coach Joe Vigil. I am happy knowing that Joe has made an impressive impact on some of today's youth and I hope that he continues his important role in young athletes lives. Thank you, Joe, for the contributions you have made to Adams State and the surrounding community.

I wish you the best of luck on your future endeavors.

OAK PARK TOWNSHIP CENTEN-
NIAL—1903–2003 "100 YEARS OF
SERVING PEOPLE"

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Oak Parkers have always been independent thinkers. So it's not surprising that the earliest residents of Oak Park opted for an independent government that gave them a greater voice in decisions that affected their lives and their community.

In the late 19th century, Oak Park was still a part of the Township of Cicero. However, after residents of the Austin neighborhood successfully broke away from the Cicero Township in 1899 choosing to annex to the city of Chicago, Oak Parkers began to petition once again for their own village. In 1901, citizens formally seceded from Cicero Township to establish their own municipal government. The first village elections were held in 1902 and Oak Park celebrated its new status as a united, self-contained community.

Because the separation from Cicero Township left Oak Park in a legal limbo as regards certain delegated township functions, Oak Park citizens voted in 1903 to establish Oak Park Township. The first elected officials were supervisor, assessor, collector, clerk, two justices of the peace and two constables.

The first social service program began in 1936 with Poor Relief, a Great Depression program to aid financially struggling residents. This was the start of the General Assistance program, which has provided financial assistance to thousands of Oak Park citizens over the years.

The growing population of youth and elderly in the 1960's and 1970's ushered in Youth Services and Senior Services. Guided by volunteer citizen committees, the services are key components in Oak Park's quality of life.

In 1971, the Senior Citizens Committee was formed and the Meals-at-Home program was established. In 1973, the Township established by popular vote the volunteer Community Mental Health Board to assess need and help fund mental health programs. In that same year, the Advisory Committee on Childcare was formed. Also in the 70's came a transportation program for seniors and people with disabilities, as well as the Senior Citizen Information and Referral Service, the Energy Assistance program and the Income Tax Assistance program.

Within the last ten years, Oak Park Township has continued to meet the growing needs of its constituency. A youth Advocacy Council was established to give a voice to the teenage population. Additionally, the Townships of Oak Park and River Forest initiated a collaborative youth services program. In 1993, the Township's Youth and Senior Services programs won three state awards and one year later the Community Mental Health Board became the only one in the state to be Medicaid certified for its case management services.

The Township's assessor and collector functions, in accordance with the Township's overall vision of service and accessibility, has

changed dramatically over the years. Since the 1930's, the assessor has been a service office, not assessing property, but helping residents, businesses and public agencies better understand property matters, taxation and assisting with appeals.

Since 1996, to improve operational efficiencies while providing broader services, the Township has entered into partnerships with other governments and private agencies to coordinate and expand its youth, senior and mental health programs. Intergovernmental agreements exist between the Township and all the other 10 governmental units in Oak Park and River Forest—villages; parks; libraries; schools and the River Forest Township.

From its humble beginnings serving Oak Park's population of 3,000 residents in 1903, one hundred years later Oak Park Township has evolved into a fullservice unit of local government serving Oak Park's 53,000 residents in 2003. I congratulate Oak Park Township on their 100th birthday and know that they will continue to identify and address unmet needs in their community.

**BILL TO FACILITATE ACQUISITION
OF MINERAL RIGHTS AT ROCKY
FLATS**

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a bill to facilitate the acquisition by the Federal Government of mineral rights or other non-Federal interests in lands that are located within the boundaries of the Rocky Flats site in Colorado.

In the 1950's, the Federal Government bought land at Rocky Flats for the use as a production facility for nuclear-weapon components. However, the purchase did not include all the mineral rights, some of which remained in private ownership.

Production at Rocky Flats ended more than a decade ago. Since then, the Department of Energy, through its contractors, has been working to have the site cleaned up and closed.

In 2001, Congress passed legislation I sponsored with Senator Wayne Allard to guide the future of Rocky Flats. Under that legislation—the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act Of 2001—once the cleanup and closure are accomplished, most of the land at Rocky Flats will be transferred from the Department of Energy to the Department of the Interior and will be managed as a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The refuge act includes some provisions related to the non-Federal minerals—primarily sand and gravel—at Rocky Flats. It says “nothing in this [law] limits any valid, existing . . . mineral right” except for “such reasonable conditions on access . . . as are appropriate for the cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats and for the management of the refuge.” And it says that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DOE and Interior is to “address the impacts” mineral rights “may have on the management of the refuge, and provide strategies for resolving or mitigating these impacts.”

These provisions were included in the refuge act in order to make clear that while these

mineral rights are to be respected as private property, future development of the minerals could have adverse effects on the land, wildlife habitat, and other values of the future wildlife refuge. That is why Congress directed the agencies to consider these potential future effects and work to find ways to mitigate those impacts.

So far, however, the Energy and Interior Departments have not been able to agree on what to do about the minerals, and the MOU has not been completed.

I think the best way to handle this would be for the Federal Government to acquire the minerals. However, neither the DOE nor Interior has made this a priority, and the current budgetary situation places constraints on such acquisitions.

My bill is intended to make it more feasible for the Interior Department to acquire some or all of the minerals. It would do that by giving the Secretary of the Interior two additional methods (either instead of or in addition to purchase for cash) for completing such acquisitions—

(1) by giving “credits” that could be used instead of cash to pay for oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf; and

(2) by allowing federal lands or minerals anywhere in the country to be exchanged for the Rocky Flats minerals (under current law, such exchanges can only occur within the same state—Colorado lands/minerals for other Colorado lands/minerals).

The bill has no compulsory provisions. It does not require that any of the non-Federal interests at Rocky Flats be acquired by the government, and it does not require anyone to accept anything other than cash for any interests that the government may acquire. It would merely provide the Interior Department with new tools—in addition to those it already has—for such acquisitions.

In developing the bill, I sought and obtained technical assistance from the Interior Department. I also have given careful consideration to comments from local governments and others in Colorado, and have made revisions to earlier drafts of the legislation in response to points raised in those comments.

Mr. Speaker, this bill—the “Rocky Flats Minerals Acquisition Act”—is narrow in scope. However, I think it can assist in successful implementation of something that is very important for all Coloradans—the establishment of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. I think it deserves the support of every Member of the House.

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

**OUTLINE OF ROCKY FLATS MINERALS
ACQUISITION BILL**

BACKGROUND

When the ongoing cleanup of the Rocky Flats site is completed, it will be closed and most of the site will be transferred to the Interior Department for management as a National Wildlife Refuge. Within the site's boundaries there are some privately-owned mineral rights (primarily sand and gravel). Federal acquisition of at least some of these mineral rights would further sound management of the site as a wildlife refuge. However, the current budgetary situation makes it difficult to complete such acquisition.

The purpose of the bill is to provide the Interior Department with two additional tools to assist in the acquisition of minerals rights or other non-Federal property at Rocky Flats:

(1) Authority to provide “credits” (instead of or in addition to cash) that could be used for bonus bids or royalties for mineral leases on the Outer Continental Shelf; and

(2) Authority to provide eligible BLM lands (or interests) anywhere in the country in exchange for the interests acquired at Rocky Flats (waiving the current requirement that exchanges must be within the same state).

SECTION-BY-SECTION OUTLINE

Section 1—

(1) provides a short title: “Rocky Flats Minerals Acquisition Act.”

(2) includes findings regarding the status of Rocky Flats and the desirability of federal acquisition of mineral interests within its boundaries

(3) states the bill's purpose as being to facilitate acquisition of non-Federal interests at Rocky Flats by authorizing the Interior Department to use credits or interests in certain public lands, instead of or in addition to cash.

Section 2—

(1) authorizes the Interior Department to use appropriated funds, credits, exchanged lands or interests therein, or any combination of these, to acquire mineral interests or other non-Federal interests at Rocky Flats;

(2) defines “credits,” making clear that they can only be issued with agreement of recipient, can only be used for bonus bids or royalty payments for oil or gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf and must be used within 10 years of their issuance;

(3) specifies that while exchanges can involve BLM lands or interests in any State, only lands or interests identified as suitable for disposal under current law can be transferred to private ownership through such an exchange;

(4) provides that interests acquired by the United States under the bill will be managed as part of the wildlife refuge and cannot be developed or transferred out of Federal ownership; and specifies that the bill adds to the Interior Department's existing authority and does not reduce any authority the Department already has.

**PAYING TRIBUTE ELVA
MARTINEZ-DRYER**

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a phenomenal athlete from my district. Elva Martinez-Dyer, a former student-athlete from Western State College, will soon be inducted into the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Hall of Fame. Her exploits on the track are legendary and I would like to recognize the hard work and determination she gave the sport.

Elva helped the track team at Western State earn nation-wide recognition, personally achieving All-American status 16 times and winning five national championships. Elva became a dominant force in the sport; she did not lose a race during her final two years at school. She was awarded the “NCAA—II Track and Field Athlete of the Year Award,” for her accomplishments and was inducted into the Colorado Sportswomen's Hall of Fame. Elva currently holds three records in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference, as well as four conference championships.

All of Elva's hard work and dedication paid off, as she earned a spot on the 2000 Olympic

Team in the 5,000-meter event. In her most recent major race, Elva finished fourth in the Boulder Bolder, running the 10-kilometer race in the Elite Division.

Mr. Speaker, Elva's accomplishments are certainly deserving of praise before this body of Congress and this nation. She has accomplished more in her short career than some could hope for in an entire lifetime. Congratulations, Elva, on your induction into the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Hall of Fame and good luck with your future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING LOUIE WONG
FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
TO CALEXICO, CALIFORNIA

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Louie Wong for his distinguished service to Calexico.

Louie was born in China and has made his home in Calexico since 1971. Mr. Wong and his wife own and operate YUM YUM Restaurant in Calexico where they serve, "the Best Chinese Food in Town." The YUM YUM restaurant has become a hub of activity for the Calexico community, hosting local politicians who meet to share ideas and concerns over plates of good food.

As a successful local businessman and a community activist, Louie has a long record of supporting numerous community organizations. He has just completed a term as President of the Calexico Chamber of Commerce where he has served with great distinction. He is a past recipient of the coveted Lava Lamp Award, presented annually by the Calexico Chamber of Commerce for service to the community. He was an early champion of Calexico's new cultural arts center, located in the renovated De Anza Hotel. The plan involves creating four rooms, or chambers, each dedicated to a different artistic discipline. Louie has supported this vision since its inception, by building community support for the plan and raising money, including personally paying for the architectural renderings.

Louie is a member of numerous community organizations and committees, including serving as a Trustee of the Imperial Valley College Board of Trustees, and on the Imperial Valley College Foundation Board of Directors. He has been much honored for his community service, receiving the first community service citation ever presented by the Calexico Unified School District and the Man of the Year Award from the Calexico Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He has served as Grand Marshal of the Calexico Christmas Parade.

Mr. Speaker, Louie Wong is a community leader, equally at home creating regional cultural arts centers as he is serving up Chinese food at high school football games to raise money for charity. He gives wholeheartedly to the organizations he supports that benefit the people of Calexico. While his service as President of the Calexico Chamber of Commerce is coming to an end, I have no doubt that he will find even more ways to improve the quality of life in his community.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES L.
STUPPARD

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend and congratulate Commander Charles L. Stuppard, United States Navy, who is leaving from the Joint Chiefs of Staff to be the next Commanding Officer of the USS *Arleigh Burke* (DDG51). The *Arleigh Burke* is a guided missile AEGIS Destroyer with a complement of about 325 personnel including 25 Officers. Commander Stuppard is slated to be at the helm of this powerful Navy vessel in April 2004.

Commander Stuppard joined the Naval Officer Corps in 1985. He obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from Cornell University and his Master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. Commander Stuppard's achievements and accomplishments are truly exemplary and I hope many young people from my district and around the country will follow in his footsteps as an Officer and a Gentleman. I congratulate Commander Stuppard for a job well done and wish him and his family fair winds and following seas.

A TRIBUTE TO GEORGETOWN, COLORADO—ONE OF AMERICA'S
DOZEN DISTINCTIVE DESTINATIONS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the town of Georgetown, Colorado, for being selected by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of its 2003 Dozen Distinctive Destination locations. This designation acknowledges the outstanding work of the residents of Georgetown in protecting, respecting and celebrating their unique history and cultural heritage.

Anyone who has spent time in Georgetown knows of the wealth of historical structures that have been preserved and protected. This heritage provides a lasting reminder of the early years of mining and living in rugged mountainous areas of Colorado and the West.

Georgetown, the county seat of Clear Creek County, was established in 1864, when the discovery of the Belmont Lode started a stampede of prospectors and ultimately gave the town its nickname, "Silver Queen of the Rockies." The town still operates under an 1868 charter from Colorado's territorial legislature.

As the National Trust notes in its announcement of this designation: "Many vestiges of the town's heyday remain, including the Georgetown Loop Railroad, a marvel of engineering, hailed as the most complex railroad loop in the world at the turn of the century. Today, the historic railroad is still thrilling passengers as it traverses the Devil's Gate High Bridge, soaring 95 feet above Clear Creek. A year-round vacation wonderland, Georgetown's spectacular setting provides unlimited

opportunities for fun. Summer months offer trout fishing, back-country hiking, biking, rafting and more—while during ski season, Georgetown is a convenient base for hitting the nearby slopes."

It was for these reasons and more that the National Trust, the country's largest private, nonprofit preservation organization, named Georgetown to its 2003 list of America's Dozen Distinctive Destinations, an annual list of unique and lovingly preserved communities in the United States.

In recognizing Georgetown, the National Trust singled out the Hamill House Museum, completed in 1879 as the home of silver baron William A. Hamill and adorned with furnishings delivered from its owner's birthplace in England. Another notable landmark is the Hotel de Paris, built in 1876. In its heyday, it was one of the finest hotels and gourmet restaurants in the state. Today the Colonial Dames operates the hotel as a museum.

Also noted by the National Trust are the town's holiday celebrations, which include a Christmas Market, Santa Lucia Processional, and horse-drawn wagon rides.

This is the fourth time the National Trust for Historic Preservation has compiled a list of A Dozen Distinctive Destinations. More than 50 destinations in 27 states were nominated by preservation organizations and local communities. Georgetown was selected because it met the National Trust's criteria of well-managed growth, a commitment to historic preservation with a protected historic core and meaningful context, interesting and attractive architecture, cultural diversity, activities for families with children, an economic base of locally-owned small businesses, and walkability for residents and visitors.

The National Trust also noted that Georgetown residents have taken forceful action to protect their town's character and sense of place and have worked hard to preserve the historic and scenic assets of their communities, with rewards that transcend town limits. In so doing, Georgetown has preserved its quality of life for its residents and tourists alike. Georgetown and towns like it in Colorado and throughout the west preserve the allure of the western lifestyle and the respect that settlers had and still have for the special places that have been established.

In announcing the places on the list of distinctive destinations, Richard Moe, the President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, had this to say about Georgetown: "It is encouraging to see communities so committed to the preservation of their historic landmarks, the revitalization of their downtown areas, and the protection of their unique heritage. Georgetown represents a truly distinctive slice of America. That makes it an exciting alternative to the homogenization of many other vacation spots. It is my hope that more American cities and towns will follow Georgetown's lead in preserving their own spirit of place."

All I can add to that is, "amen," and my own congratulations to the people of Georgetown for this honor, so well earned through their efforts to preserve one of the places that makes Colorado such a special place to live.

HONORING SIDNY ZINK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a selfless community servant from my district, Sidny Zink of Durango, Colorado. An active member of the Leadership La Plata organization, Sidny was recently honored with the "Barbara Conrad Award," which recognizes a person who donates numerous hours to their community. Today I would like to join with the Durango Area Chamber of Commerce in honoring Sidny's commitment and recognizing this distinct honor.

A longtime resident of Durango, Sidny is widely known for her dedication to community service. Sidny has been active in a number of committees and organizations, such as the Big Brothers Big Sisters foundation, Community Development Corporation, the La Plata Homebuilders Society, and the Community Development Corporation. While Sidny has worked vigorously for the community, she spends much of her time with Leadership La Plata, learning how new issues could affect her community.

Mr. Speaker, in a recent ceremony in Durango, last year's recipient of the "Barbara Conrad Award" Ed Morlan passed on the award in recognition of Sidny's commitment to the community. I join with my colleagues here today in applauding Sidny's civic-mindedness and in recognizing this prestigious honor. Congratulations and thanks again, Sidny, for the many years of service you have given the Durango community.

STATEMENT RECOGNIZING DR. CHARLES CARPENTER FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Charles C.J. Carpenter, who received the John E. Fogarty Recognition award for his lifelong achievements in global health on May 29. This prestigious honor, given by the National Institute of Health's John E. Fogarty International Center, recognizes Dr. Carpenter's career in research to combat major diseases in developing countries and his involvement in training future generations of researchers in international health. Dr. Carpenter is a Professor of Medicine at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, and formerly the Physician-in-Chief of Brown University's Miriam Hospital.

Born in Savannah, GA, Dr. Carpenter received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Princeton University and a medical degree from the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He began his medical career at Johns Hopkins, where he later served as a faculty member. He started the Johns Hopkins Cholera Research Program, which was located in Calcutta, India, and researched the treatment of cholera in children and adults. He served for 12 years as Professor and Chairman of the Department of

Medicine at Case Western Reserve University before joining the medical faculty at Brown University in 1986. At Brown, he became involved with the clinical management of persons living with HIV/AIDS, and is currently the Principal Investigator of the Lifespan/Tufts/Brown Center for AIDS Research. Dr. Carpenter has also written many notable publications on his research from cholera to HIV/AIDS.

The John E. Fogarty International Center plays a vital role in the United States' response to global challenges in health. The late John Fogarty served as Representative from the 2nd District of Rhode Island and was a lifelong advocate of promoting the study of global health problems. Dr. Carpenter has consistently shown that same vision by taking on the challenge of disease prevention throughout the global community. He has shown himself to be a notable leader on seeking out ways to better the entire global community, and by doing so, has left his mark on international health.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I hope our colleagues will join me in congratulating Dr. Carpenter on his lifetime of achievements.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, with great disappointment I was unable to be present on Tuesday, June 24 to speak and vote in favor of H.R. 2555, the Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004.

The terrorist attacks on and following September 11 highlighted our vulnerability to attack on our soil, and exposed a new enemy with a desire to harm the United States and the American people. Our swift efforts at bolstering our domestic security have resulted in the prevention of further domestic incidents. It is this absence of occurrences that confirms our success. We cannot, however, become complacent in this success and must remain committed to securing our homeland.

Our Nation continually faces new and previously unfamiliar domestic threats that are more severe than ever before. Local governments cannot be expected to bear the new financial burdens that accompany their extensive and important new detection, prevention, and emergency management responsibilities. Funding must come from the Federal Government in this matter of national security.

When I was a Florida State Senator I chaired the Senate Homeland Security Committee following September 11. Florida was the state that initiated the drive to secure federal funds for first responders. Because we had to deal with so many natural disasters, we know the many benefits of well-trained, well-equipped first responders. Local governments cannot be expected to bear the new financial burdens that accompany their extensive and important new responsibilities. Funding must come from the Federal Government in this matter of national security.

I applaud Chairman ROGERS, Chairman YOUNG, and the entire Appropriations Sub-

committee on Homeland Security for their excellent work in producing the first ever Homeland Security Appropriations bill. I am so pleased that my colleagues in Congress share my concern for the priority that is Homeland Security, and that consequently, the Appropriations Act passed 425-2.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PATTI O'ROURKE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the life and memory of an outstanding woman from my district. Patti O'Rourke of Pueblo, Colorado made tremendous contributions during her lifetime to her community and served as leader and role model for many.

Patti graduated from law school at Fordham University in 1944 and went to work with a firm on Wall Street. She later became one of the first women to practice law in Pueblo County, Colorado, and in 1981, became the county's first female judge. Patti's reputation as a fair and caring judge, as well as her lifelong commitment to community service, was well known. She donated countless hours to a variety of causes that are too numerous to mention. In short, Patti served on many community boards, worked tirelessly to support family court reforms, and took up the cause for senior citizens. Even after leaving full-time service on the bench, Patti's interest in serving others prompted her to travel to Denver several times a week to help alleviate a large backlog of cases.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the life and memory of Patti O'Rourke before this body of Congress and this nation today. By reaching heights no other woman had attained, Patti became a pioneer who blazed a trail other women could follow. By giving so much of herself to the community, Patti became a public servant and a beacon for everyone in Pueblo, the State of Colorado, and our nation to follow. Patti left the world a better place; she will be missed by her family, friends, and the many people whose lives she impacted for the better.

HONORING PRESTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE TIFFANY BROWN

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Miss Tiffany Brown, a constituent of mine from the Bronx, NY. Tiffany is graduating this year with honors from Preston High School in the Bronx.

Mr. Speaker, we hear so much these days about students not being interested in community service and not being interested in politics and public service, but Tiffany is the exception, not the rule. While in school at Preston, she interned with New York State Assemblyman Steve Kaufman, interned with the Eleanor Roosevelt Democratic Club, was a CCD

teacher at St. Ursula's Church and co-founded a program called "R.A.M", Registering Adults and Minorities Program, which seeks to increase voting registration and participation.

Mr. Speaker, Tiffany is truly one of the best and brightest students in New York City. In high school, she was a member of Amnesty International, was a columnist for her newspaper, wrote for Preston's literary magazine, was a member of the African American club, the orchestra, a captain of the Defense Team, and a participant in the Science and Technology entry program at Fordham University. Tiffany was a well-rounded student and successful student, gaining notice as one of the Who's Who Among American High School Students.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Tiffany's commitment to community service and her giving back so much to make the Bronx and the Co-Op City neighborhood where she lives in a better place. Mr. Speaker, academic and community success though is not achieved with the work of one person alone. It is a team effort. Tiffany comes from a strong and caring family, including her aunt who is also my Co-Op City office director Teckla Halls. Her family along with her teachers, mentors and adults in the community are all part of the success that makes Tiffany the wonderful young woman she is today.

Mr. Speaker, Tiffany is an exceptional student, one who has a bright and prosperous future ahead. I wish her and her family all the best.

HONORING BILL KILLGORE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a selfless community servant from my district, Bill Killgore of Grand Junction, Colorado. An active member of the Grand Junction Lions Club, Bill was recently honored as "Lion of the Year." I would like to join with his fellow Lions in honoring Bill's commitment and recognizing this distinct honor.

A longtime resident of Grand Junction, Bill is widely known for his dedication to community service. Bill has been active in a number of committees and organizations, such as the Redlands Water Board, the Avalon Theatre Restoration Committee, and serving as chairman of the Highway Cleanup Committee. While Bill has worked vigorously for the community, his heart has always been with his beloved Lions Club. Bill's work with the Lions is well known; from their commitment to community service to the many fundraising events they hold in support of local causes and organizations, Bill is always at the forefront of the club's service projects, eager to help out his community.

Mr. Speaker, in a recent ceremony in Grand Junction, former "Lion of the Year" Dan Griffin passed on that distinctive title in recognition of Bill's commitment to both the community and the club. I join with my colleagues here today in applauding Bill's civic-mindedness and in recognizing this prestigious honor. This recognition to Bill and his fellow Lions for the work that they do in my community is long

overdue, and I am proud to bring it to the attention of this House today. Congratulations and thanks again, Bill, for your many years of hard work on behalf of Grand Junction and the Lions. May you have many more to come!

IN HONOR OF DR. WAYNE D. LETT,
SUPERINTENDENT OF NEWPORT
NEWS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Representative JO ANN DAVIS and myself to recognize the outstanding service of Dr. Wayne Lett. Following 34 years of educational service, Dr. Lett will be retiring from his post as Superintendent of Newport News Public Schools on July 1, 2003.

Dr. Lett's career has been devoted to education and his efforts have been important to the lives of countless young people in Newport News. His achievements have been recognized by both local and national organizations. In 2001, Dr. Lett was named Virginia Superintendent of the Year by the Virginia Association of School Superintendents. He has provided leadership in many urban school organizations and has served as President and Vice President of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools.

Dr. Lett's illustrious career in education began in 1969, following his graduation from East Carolina University with an A.B. in history and political science. He first served as a teacher, assistant principal, and personnel director in York County Public Schools. It was during this time that Dr. Lett earned his M.A. in history from Old Dominion University in 1972, a C.A.S. in education administration from the College of William and Mary in 1975, and an Ed.D in education administration from the same institution in 1984.

Dr. Lett's tenure in Newport News Public Schools began in 1984. After serving in a number of different administrative positions for the school district, Dr. Lett was named Superintendent in 1996.

Under Dr. Lett's leadership, Newport News Public Schools has made significant progress in the academic performance of its students. The number of fully accredited schools has risen from one to nineteen, access to rigorous coursework has been made a priority, tutoring and mentoring programs have been expanded, and the dropout rate has been reduced by more than 50 percent. During this time Newport News Public Schools has received more U.S. Department of Education "Blue Ribbon" designations than any other school division in Virginia. These are only a few of the many achievements that are the direct result of Dr. Lett's leadership.

Mr. Speaker, Representative JO ANN DAVIS and I would like to congratulate Dr. Lett on his distinguished service and thank him for his great commitment to the education of our youth.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO COLORADO
MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to an exceptional educational institution in my district. Colorado Mountain College was established in 1967 and currently provides over 25,000 students with a quality education. The school will soon be opening a new campus to better serve the Vail/Eagle Valley area. I am proud to stand here today and recognize the 36 years of service that Colorado Mountain College has given to my state and congratulate them on their expansion.

The new campus in Edwards, Colorado will provide students with state of the art facilities that will help enrich their college experience. The campus will have 16 classrooms, several labs, science and EMT facilities, and a fire science center. CMC is already the largest rural community college in the U.S. and this campus will further the services they provide to underserved areas throughout the state.

Colorado Mountain College provides students with the opportunity to take classes in one of the most beautiful landscapes in the world. Sitting high in the Rocky Mountains, CMC maintains a unique curriculum, offering classes in subject areas not found elsewhere. Students are able to study ski business and resort management, seeing first hand how some of the world's premier ski resorts are run. CMC also offers classes in forestry and fire sciences, important subjects on the Western Slope, which faces some of the worst fire danger in the country.

Mr. Speaker, Colorado Mountain College does more for its students than provide an education, it gives them the opportunity to succeed. The college is a vital part of the Colorado Community, and I am truly honored to recognize such an exceptional institution and its outstanding team of dedicated employees here today. Congratulations on the expansion, and good luck with all of your future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF BILL RUMBLE

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with the utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to a friend and educator, Mr. Bill Rumble, who will retire this Friday, June 27th, after 28 exceptional years of teaching in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Born November 5, 1946 in Long Beach, California, to Everett and Marion Rumble, Bill graduated from Millikan High School in 1964 and then attended the University of California, Los Angeles, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. Following college, Bill served in the United State Navy from June 1968 to July 1970. First commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve, he

was quickly called up to active duty and served as Combat Information Center Officer on the Naval destroyers USS *DuPont* and USS *Albert David*. During his two-year Naval tenure, he earned the National Defense Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and he attained the rank of Lieutenant.

Bill's service to his country did not end when he left the military, but instead evolved into a lifetime of service in the classroom. After completing his California Teaching Credential from California State University, Long Beach, in June 1974, Bill went to work for the Los Angeles Unified School District where he taught English as a Second Language, English, history, and Chicano Studies from 1974 to 1996. From 1996 to the present, he has served as the Bilingual Program Coordinator at Wilson High School, which is attended by many students who reside in my district. Though he has spent his career as a teacher, Bill somehow found the time to be a student earning his Master of Arts in Latin American Studies from California State University, Los Angeles in 1988.

Bill Rumble has never pursued but has certainly earned recognition as a dedicated public servant, committed educator, and fighter for human dignity. But what sets him apart from many others, at least for me, is his devotion to and appreciation of his role as husband and father.

Bill had the good sense to marry Carol Jacques in August of 1981. Together they have three children: Lawrence, Mateo, and Maya. In her own right, Carol is a tireless and beloved advocate in our community. Together they have mastered the art of advocacy, and together they have shared in the fruits of their progressive work. Together, they are a powerful team.

Bill's 28 years with the schools of Los Angeles have been flush with positions of leadership, including Social Studies Department Chair during 1995–96, member of the Accreditations Committee during 1996–97, member of the Professional Development Committee during 2000–03, and member of the Academic Leadership Team during 2001–03. Furthermore, Bill played an active role with our local teachers union, the United Teachers of Los Angeles, in which he assumed several positions of leadership. Ultimately, however, Bill's first priority as a teacher was his genuine concern for the education, enrichment and well being of his students.

As a tireless volunteer, Bill has supported many local community-based organizations, including Art in the Park, the Northeast branch of the Los Angeles YMCA, the Mount Washington Residents Association, and the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council.

Bill's retirement marks the final chapter in a distinguished teaching career. But, if I know Bill, he's just getting started. I look forward to his continued service and devotion to our community. Just as his students needed him yesterday, we who believe in social activism and a commitment to social justice need him today.

Mr. Speaker, as family, friends and colleagues gather to celebrate Bill's many accomplishments, it is with great admiration and pride that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting this exceptional man and brother to many. America certainly got the best end of the bargain when it opened the

doors of education and public service to Bill Rumble.

TRIBUTE TO RICK LUPE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a true American hero. Rick Lupe recently passed away from injuries sustained while battling a prescribed burn on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation near Whiteriver, Arizona. I am saddened by his death and would like to take a moment to reflect on the courage and leadership of this honorable and distinguished individual.

Rick previously made headlines during another fire that took place last summer. When the Rodeo-Chediski fire scorched much of Arizona, Rick engineered a fire line at the last minute, using a back burn and bulldozers that helped save the town of Show Low. Such acts of courage are no surprise to those who knew him. In nearly two decades of service to the Fort Apache Hotshot crew, Rick developed a reputation as a strong but quiet leader, a loyal colleague, and trusted friend.

Rick possessed courage and toughness to spare. While checking on a hot spot recently, the wind picked up and blew the flames around him. When the shelter he tried to deploy blew away, Rick dropped to the ground to allow the fire to pass over him. Even though the flames and heat scorched him, leaving 3rd degree burns over 40 percent of his body, he summoned the strength to walk a half-mile to get help. Even then, Rick held on for five weeks before leaving us. He will be especially missed by his beloved wife Evelyn and his children Brent, Sean, and Daniel. I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to them during this difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Rick Lupe today. His immediate family will remember Rick for the loving husband and father that he was. The town of Show Low, the Fort Apache Hotshots, and this nation will remember Rick as the hero that he was. Rick dedicated his life to serving his nation and his fellow citizens. We will always be grateful.

TRIBUTE TO JOEL WILLARD

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a member of my Washington, D.C., staff for his years of faithful service to me and to the good people of Oregon's Second Congressional District. Joel Willard has been my Executive Assistant for over 2 years, performing a myriad of responsibilities in a hectic environment with dedication and poise. It's a tough job, and he excelled at it. Joel will leave my office this week to continue his education as a law student at the University of California at Berkeley, where I have every confidence that he will dem-

onstrate the same talents that have made him such an invaluable member of my staff.

Mr. Speaker, Joel is a lifelong Oregonian and the son of a highly respected southern Oregon family. His father, Dave, is a long-time servant of the Oregon public school system and has worked for ten years as the Superintendent of the Phoenix-Talent School District. Joel's mother, Jana, is a homemaker who has returned to graduate school after raising her children. Like Joel, his brothers Chad and Gabe are fine young Oregonians with bright, promising futures. I am proud to call them my friends.

One of Joel's defining characteristics is his dedication to the people of his native state. Since his days in the Oregon State Legislature working for State Representative Rob Patridge, Joel has pursued his passion for public policy and public service from Salem to Washington, D.C. He came to the Nation's capital on a weekend's notice and brought with him both his love of Oregon and his reverence for the American system of government. I have no doubt that he will return to the West Coast with the same idealism that first inspired him to serve his fellow citizens.

Perhaps Joel's most impressive trait is his deep religious faith and personal commitment to the teachings of Jesus Christ. Prior to his marriage, Joel lived in a home for Christian men on Capitol Hill called Jonathan House, where he enjoyed the company of young professionals who shared his moral convictions and dedication to the Christian church. Joel's unwavering devotion to his beliefs, in an age when so many young people lack a guiding moral compass, has deeply impressed me and those with whom he has worked.

Mr. Speaker, in July of last year, I had the honor of attending Joel's wedding to his lovely bride, the former Elizabeth Horton, who has been at Joel's side since their early teens. Elizabeth, also a lifelong Oregonian, has made her love of children a career as an elementary school teacher, a calling for which she is particularly well suited. Joel and Elizabeth are the sort of people that parents want their children to grow up to be, and it gives me great pleasure to know that they will share their lives together.

Mr. Speaker, it goes without saying that Joel will be difficult to replace. If you were to poll my staff, they would be unanimous in their regret at his departure, as he has been a reliable coworker and caring friend. While we are sorry to see him depart the office, we are happy to watch him enter a new phase in his life that I know will bring both great challenges and great rewards. I have no doubt that he will do as well pursuing a legal career as he has done in his work on behalf of the people of the Second District. Joel, thank you for a job well done, and know that you are leaving my office with my deepest gratitude and that of the people you have so ably helped me to represent. We're counting on you to keep in close touch.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is an outrage that we are today considering a military

construction bill that cuts funding for desperately needed facilities by \$1.5 billion from last year's bill.

It is an outrage that, as young men and women in uniform are fighting and dying every day in Iraq, we are voting on a bill that will not provide needed funds for housing for their families; for dormitories or young airmen, sailors, soldiers, and marines; and for safe facilities in which to work.

The bill we are voting on today represents a sad example of a policy that the majority seems to be pursuing of paying lip-service to the men and women who risk their lives in defense of our country—while cutting funds for family housing, for needed pay raises, for health care for veterans.

The young people who are fighting for us now in Iraq and around the world have been shut out of the child tax credit, and now it seems that we are yet again going after programs that help these brave men and women and the families they have left behind.

Mr. Speaker, this is wrong, and I urge my colleagues to vote against this rule.

TRIBUTE TO RAY WAH-NYEP QUAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to the life and passing of Ray Wah-Nyep Quan, an outstanding citizen from my district. Ray was an active member of the Grand Junction community, and he will be remembered as a respected businessman and dedicated family man. Ray passed away recently at the age of 81, leaving a legacy of leadership for his community to follow.

Ray owned and operated the Far East Restaurant in Grand Junction, providing the community with excellent food and quality service. His hard work and dedication helped make the Far East one of the most popular restaurants in town, attracting customers to its unique atmosphere, authentic decor, and quality food. The restaurant became so popular that Ray

was able to expand the building twice, turning the Far East into a luxurious three-level eatery.

Ray loved his life in the United States and became an example of the American dream. Ray was a self made man whose diligence and determination aided his success. He called the United States "gold mountain" in appreciation of the opportunities he found here, and helped several Chinese immigrants move to this country to experience those same opportunities from which he has benefited. With Ray's assistance, many of these new Americans have seen their lives improve and their children go on to college.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the life of Ray Wah-Nyep Quan today. Ray loved the United States, embracing it as his own. His drive and dedication helped him become a model citizen, one who cares about the country that has helped provide him with so much. I am saddened by his passing, and my thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.