

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE JOHN W. KLUGE PRIZE FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN THE HUMAN SCIENCES

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, this week, the first inaugural John W. Kluge Prize for Lifetime Achievement in the Human Sciences was awarded in a ceremony at the Library of Congress. The Kluge Prize is given for lifetime achievement in the humanities and social sciences, areas of scholarship for which there are no Nobel Prizes.

Mr. Kluge and the Librarian of Congress James H. Billington deserve our congratulations for conceiving, developing and funding this prize. It will provide recognition for the influence the humanities have on human welfare. The first recipient of the million-dollar Kluge Prize is Leszek Kolakowski, whose achievements as a philosopher, historian and essayist have influenced and affected the course of European history within his lifetime. Librarian of Congress James H. Billington recognized Kolakowski for not only his accomplishments but "the trajectory of a scholarly lifetime," evidencing growth in both intellectual range and maturity over more than half a century. The selection process included consideration of the wide range of nominations by a worldwide Scholars Council established for the purpose. Professor Kolakowski, sometimes described as the philosopher of the Solidarity Movement, is a worthy choice for the first Kluge Prize because it truly shows the constructive power of thought.

Professor Kolakowski, who currently lives in Oxford, England, was born in Radom, Poland, in 1927. He was educated at Lodz University (1945–50) and Warsaw University, where he received his doctorate in 1953, staying on to become Chairman of the Section of History of Philosophy at Warsaw. He concurrently worked in the Institute of Philosophy of the Polish Academy of Sciences and as editor-in-chief of the main philosophical journal in Poland. Having been expelled for political reasons from his university post by the Polish government in March 1968, he held a series of professorships of Philosophy abroad: McGill University, Montreal (1968–69), the University of California, Berkeley (1969–70), and Yale University (1974). From 1981 to 1994 he was Professor on the Committee of Social Thought at the University of Chicago. He was also a Senior Research Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, from 1970 until his retirement in 1995. During the years, he has been widely honored and received the German Booksellers Peace Prize (1977), the Erasmus Prize (1980), the Veillon Foundation European Prize for the Essay (1980), the Jefferson Award (1986), the MacArthur Award (1982), the University of Chicago Laing Award (1990), and Tocqueville Prize (1994).

He has written more than 30 books and 400 other writings on a wide range of subjects in

four languages, primarily focused on the history of philosophy and the philosophy of religion. His best known and most influential work is the three-volume *Main Currents of Marxism: Its Rise, Growth and Dissolution (1976–78)*. Written in exile from Poland, it was, and remains, the most lucid and comprehensive history of the origins, structure and posthumous development of the system of thought that had the greatest impact on the 20th century. Prof. Kolakowski's ideas informed the anti-totalitarian youth movement inside Poland, and he became an adviser and active supporter-in-exile of the Solidarity movement that challenged and began unraveling, in a non-violent way, the Soviet system in Eastern Europe. As one of the leaders of Solidarity put it:

This skeptical student of enlightenment thought, this scholar of the highest intellectual rigor, this opponent of all illusions, played the most romantic and Promethean of roles. He was the awakener of human hopes.

In other words, this man demonstrated that philosophical thought and the study of history can lead to world-changing action, as Dr. Kolakowski's work helped to change the world through the Solidarity Movement. The word academic sometimes is used to mean "without practical or useful significance." For Leszek Kolakowski academic research is not academic.

Dr. Billington began soliciting nominations for the first Kluge Prize over two years ago, but he first developed the idea in the late 1970's while serving as Director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Dr. Billington obtained congressional authorization for a Nobel-type prize in the field of social and political thought, to honor the late Senator Hubert Humphrey, founding chairman of the Wilson Center Board. The prize was never funded, but Dr. Billington brought the idea with him when he came to the Library of Congress in 1987. Endowed by Library benefactor John W. Kluge, this prize will reward lifetime achievement in the wide range of disciplines not covered by the Nobel prizes. Such disciplines include history, philosophy, politics, anthropology, sociology, religion, criticism in the arts and humanities, and linguistics. The award is at the financial level of the Nobel awards. The prize is international; the recipient may be of any nationality, writing in any language.

Dr. Billington believes it is important and appropriate to award the prize at the Library of Congress, in the nation's capital, in recognition of America's long tradition of devoting energy and resources into the serious and ranging study of the human sciences—more than any other nation over the last century. The international nature of the prize reflects America's role as a world civilization whose thinkers and ideas trace their origins to all corners of the world. Please join me in congratulating Leszek Kolakowski on this important award and thank him for his contribution to the world we live in.

HONORING MARSHA EMANUEL OF WILMETTE, ILLINOIS

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate my generous and loving mother, Marsha Emanuel, back home in Wilmette, Illinois on her 70th birthday.

For the last 40 years, my mother has dedicated her life to her profession, her husband, her children, and her community.

The former Marsha Smulevitz began her career as a nurse in Chicago where she met my father, Benjamin, during his medical residency. They soon thereafter wed and settled in Chicago's North Andersonville neighborhood where they went on to have four children: me, my brothers Ezekiel and Ariel, and my sister, Shoshana.

As if raising four children was not challenging enough, my mother continued to dedicate herself to public service and the civil rights struggle of that time, working to build a just society for all Americans. In the early 1960's, my mother served four years on the Congress of Racial Equality, founded by students at the University of Chicago, through which she participated in the Freedom March in the South.

Following her activism in the civil rights movement, my mother traveled an entrepreneurial path. She went on to own the Daisy Patch Night Club on Chicago's north side where many local bands came to play their first performances.

As her children entered their teens, my mother returned to school. Never having graduated from high school, she earned her GED. She continued her academic pursuits by studying social work at Roosevelt University and earning an advanced degree in social work from Northeastern Illinois University. For over twenty years, my mother has maintained her commitment to public service by working as a social worker and counselor to local children and adults.

Mr. Speaker, on this, her 70th birthday, I am so very proud of and sincerely thank my mother, Marsha Emanuel, for always being a guiding light to her husband, her four children, and her eleven grandchildren. Happy Birthday, Mom.

TRIBUTE TO COACH VAN ROSE AND THE SHAWNEE MISSION NORTHEAST HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend a remarkable man who lives and works in the Third

• 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.

Congressional District of Kansas. Van Rose, a calculus teacher and cross country coach at Shawnee Mission Northwest High School, should be recognized for his undying commitment to the students he coaches on Shawnee Mission Northwest's "Cougars" cross country team.

On November 1, 2003, the Cougars' boys' team picked up their 10th straight state championship title in the Kansas high school 6A division. But that's only the beginning. Under his leadership, the girls' cross country team has won eight championships over the past 10 years. Combined, his teams have won more than 20 state titles since 1977.

After spending countless hours coaching his team, and preparing lesson plans for his calculus students, Mr. Rose finds the time to contribute to his community. For the past 25 years, he has volunteered every summer at the PowerAde Freedom Run in downtown Lenexa, Kansas.

Coach Rose is noted for his dedication to youth and his selfless attitude. Despite his obvious talents as a coach, teacher, leader, and mentor, he always gives his runners all the credit for the teams' successes.

Mr. Speaker, for his dedication and selflessness, I proudly commend Coach Van Rose as he and the Cougars celebrate another victory this year as Kansas cross country state champs.

HONORING ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER ON STATE CHAMPIONSHIP AND GIRLS SOCCER ON STATE RUNNER-UP

HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the young men and women of St. Joseph High School Indians' boys and girls soccer teams.

St. Joe High School, located in my District in South Bend, Indiana, has about 750 students. On a cold Sunday, the 22-member boys team set out to win their first-ever state championship.

Mr. Speaker, these young men not only captured their first Indiana High School Athletic Association State Soccer Championship, but they did it in dramatic fashion. They finished with a perfect record—twenty-four wins and no losses.

This great triumph is a direct result of years of hard work, discipline, dedication, and devotion to the sport. In fact, I know that the 10 seniors on the team have been playing together since the age of 8. The players, coaching staff, and parents brought the game of soccer to new levels, and the entire team should be congratulated for a season that will no doubt go down in school history.

The girls soccer team also had a fantastic season. Finishing with seventeen victories, the Lady Indians marked their return to the state finals with a valiant effort. They should be very proud of their runnerup state champion title.

I would like to acknowledge Coach LeRoy Krempec and Coach Johan Kuitse for their brilliant seasons.

On behalf of the citizens of the Second Congressional District, I would like to con-

gratulate Brian Wynne, Joe Leary, Raynor Dongieux, James Urbany, Andy Urbany, David Pope-Davis, Sam Fallon, Michael Hughes, Spencer McColester, Jason Bathrick, Alejandro Gurule, John Cananaugh, Collin Fitzsimmons, Peter Sabo, Patrick Bishop, Logan Conner, Patrick Murphy, Mike McDonald, Patrick Kelly, Wil Banik, Michael Brady, Matthew Pellegrino, Assistant Coach Todd Peterson, and student manger Kevin McCombs on their state championship.

Additionally, I would also like to congratulate Alison Smith, Carolyn Murphy, Julie Veldman, Stephanie Horvath, Kristen Hayes, Meg McHugh, Susan Pinnick, Meghan Paladino, Alison Lindsey, Jenny Thornton, Christine Sweeney, Julie Paunicka, Lizzie Gerard, Ali Nellis, Erin James, Cathrine Guentert, Collen Kelly, Morgan Cox, Lindsey Hyduk, Caitlyn Edmonds, Kelly Roberson, Allison Sweeney, Assistant Coaches Phil DePauw, Marianne Ciolitto, and Carrie Applegate for their remarkable season.

Mr. Speaker, I know that these young men and women will go far in their future endeavors. They have already demonstrated they have what it takes to be a champion. I wish the seniors the best of luck.

Again, I would like to congratulate the St. Joe High School boys soccer team for winning their first-ever state title and the girls soccer team for their exceptional runner-up finish at the state tournament.

COMMEMORATION FOR FORMER WASHINGTON, D.C. MAYOR WALTER EDWARD WASHINGTON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, funeral services were held for the first elected Mayor of the District of Columbia in the 20th century, Mayor Walter E. Washington, on Saturday, November 1, 2003. The funeral had the full trappings of a state funeral that Mayor Washington deserved. He lay in state at the John A. Wilson Building (the District Building) on Friday, October 31. Following memorial services, which took place at the Washington National Cathedral, Mayor Washington's coffin, draped with the District of Columbia flag, was carried through the city on a large fire truck, passing through neighborhoods associated with his life in our city, including LeDroit Park, where he lived, Howard University, where he attended undergraduate and law school, and the City Museum which he helped to found. He was laid to rest at the Lincoln Memorial Cemetery.

I paid tribute to Mayor Washington in remarks last week and also placed in the RECORD a Washington Post editorial and a personal tribute from Post editorial writer, Colbert King. Howard University Law School Professor J. Clay Smith, Jr., who served with me when I chaired the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, has asked me to share with the House his reflections to the faculty and students of the law school concerning Mayor Washington. I am pleased to submit his remarks for the RECORD.

IN MEMORY OF WALTER E. WASHINGTON 1915-2003

(By Professor J. Clay Smith, Jr.)

Dear Faculty and Students:

I pause today to share with you just a bit of information about one of our most esteemed graduate, the Honorable Walter E. Washington.

Many of our students attend law school because they are interested in politics or public service. For nearly 140 years our law school has produced several leading political figures in the Nation and beyond. One of our graduates, the Honorable Walter E. Washington, class of 1938, died this week. Why is his life important to us? He was a graduate of Howard University School of Law, who is an example of what our students can do to make the world a better place. It is an opportunity for us to reflect, even for a moment and consider why we came to Howard Law School and the aspirations that directed us to enter the profession of law or to teach.

Walter Washington was a friend of many people in Washington and abroad. He was graduated during a period when life was hard, but his spirit to achieve was strong and his determination unstoppable. There was little if any scholarship money when Walter Washington entered the law school. His generation worked their way through school, but they studied long hours at night into the morning sun. Washington, like so many of the students of his generation, were guided by their law teachers, yet they also brought with them seeds planted for the future from their high schools, colleges, families, and friends.

Washington was a graduate from Howard University and its law school. I was honored to know him personally, but not as much as I would have like to have known the depth of his extraordinary intellect and perseverance in his early years. Many people knew of him very early in his life and most must have predicted that he would be successful in his calling to the law. But he stretched beyond the law to the political arena and in 1973, he was first appointed by President Johnson as Mayor-Commissioner of the District of Columbia becoming the first African American Mayor in a large city in the Nation. He was subsequently elected as Mayor of Washington, DC in 1974. As a recent law graduate, I remember his election well because he was a graduate of the very law school that I attended. It made me proud of our school and caused me to respect him all these years even as an outsider to the life that he lived, except for the past 7 years during which I got to know him in more professional surroundings.

I bring this message to the faculty and more importantly to our students as an example of what students are capable of becoming and how we influence them in the ways each of us teach and inspire them, even students who may not see the value or the power of their intellects that will rest upon recognition of their own worth and accountability. Walter Washington loved his law school and the friends that he made during his matriculation at Howard University. In so many ways, Mayor Washington's life is like so many of our graduates who placed or left marks in the sand that will not and cannot be brushed away. Mayor Washington will be remembered not only by the wonderful articles that appear in today's newspaper (Washington Post Oct. 28, 2003), he is to be studied by our students as an exemplar of what (you) can become. As for us who teach, I hope that from time to time we remind our students that what we do here at the law school is to help mold them toward law so that they can lead as Walter E. Washington and so many others of our graduates have done to secure the democracy, to find answers to secure the poor, to create better housing, to be honored by the people as leaders from the law school of its first Dean, John Mercer Langston.

Nevertheless, to achieve these wonderful levels, giants like Washington, to hear him tell it, meant that a 100% effort was required in the study of law. Greatness may be defined in many ways, our law school has graduated many great people, and many more will come and leave this law school that will and who have prepared themselves to be leaders and successful lawyers in communities they will serve. Mayor Washington was one of such students. He will be missed, but he has left with us, particularly our law school, seeds that will grow many others like him.

INTRODUCTION OF "THE MEMORIAL TO NONCITIZEN PATRIOTS ACT"

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague from California, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, to honor our nation's veterans with introduction of the "Memorial to Noncitizen Patriots Act."

George Washington once said, "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

Honoring our veterans is a process that begins on the battlefield through ensuring that our troops have the best training, equipment and other support. It continues as we welcome them home upon returning from war, when we fly the POW-MIA flag, when we care for them and their families and, ultimately, when we lay them to rest with appropriate remembrance and tribute.

Our country, while divided in its views on specific military actions, is united in its support for our service men and women who are prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice to defend our freedom.

Many American military heroes, past and present, were born outside of the United States. From the thousands of noncitizens who fought for the Union Army during the Civil War, to the 36,177 noncitizen members of today's Armed Forces, these men and women have sacrificed for our country and the preservation of our precious freedom.

To date, we have lost 17 noncitizen service members in Iraq. Marine Lance Corporal Jose Gutierrez from Lomita, California, in my Congressional District, was born in Guatemala and lost his life this spring. Like Corporal Gutierrez, all of these men and women have fought just as bravely as their American-born counterparts and have dedicated themselves to serving the country they are proud to call their own.

It is time that we appropriately recognize their bravery, valor, and patriotism.

I am pleased to pay tribute to Corporal Gutierrez and other foreign-born noncitizen patriots who died in combat with the introduction of the "Memorial to Noncitizen Patriots Act." This legislation would authorize construction of a memorial at Arlington National Cemetery honoring the service and sacrifice of noncitizens killed in the line of duty while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Arlington, the nation's premier military cemetery and shrine honoring the men and

women who served in the Armed Forces, is a particularly fitting place for this tribute. I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF SEEDS FOR SOLDIERS ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Seeds for Soldiers Act, a bill intended to help our veterans jumpstart new small businesses.

This bill contains two main components. First, it creates a specialized loan program for veterans through the Small Business Administration. This program provides veterans with loans up to \$3 million, allows for debt refinancing, and permits borrowers to defer payments for up to one year without any accumulation of interest. To encourage lenders to provide capital, the program will carry reduced costs and a higher government loan guarantee.

Second, the bill establishes a vocational rehabilitation program for veterans specifically designed to assist in the transition out of service to become entrepreneurs. The program will be established within the existing Small Business Development Centers and will provide both technical and vocational assistance to assist veterans in transforming their skills learned in military training to areas where there is market demand. In addition, the program will provide the entrepreneurial assistance for veterans to set up their own business. It will provide these veterans the tools to move from the workplace to the marketplace. The program will authorize \$25 million with minimum grants of \$500,000.

As a member of both the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and the Small Business Committee, I strongly support assisting our Nation's veterans in establishing their own businesses. As a Nation currently welcoming home our newest veterans, we must act in every way possible to assist those heroes in their success upon return. This bill provides the seeds for veteran-owned businesses, so that they may grow into sustainable entities.

I thank Representative Sue Kelly for her support of this bill, and I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting both our veterans, and the benefits that small businesses contribute to our economy, by cosponsoring this bill.

COMMENDING PRESIDENT BUSH'S REMARKS AT THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend President George W. Bush for his extremely important and inspirational remarks at the 20th anniversary of the National Endowment for Democracy on November 6, 2003.

The National Endowment for Democracy was formed 20 years ago to answer President

Ronald Reagan's ground breaking speech before the British Parliament in London on June 8, 1982. President Reagan said:

The objective I propose is quite simple to state: to foster the infrastructure of democracy—the system of a free press, unions, political parties, universities— which allows a people to choose their own way, to develop their own culture, to reconcile their own differences through peaceful means.

Since its inception at the height of the Cold War, the National Endowment for Democracy has been a bipartisan, non-profit organization with the singular aim of promoting democracy and freedom throughout the world. The National Endowment for Democracy has lived up to its mission of "supporting freedom throughout the world."

Yesterday, President George W. Bush renewed America's commitment to the cause of freedom with these stirring words:

The advance of freedom is the calling of our time; it is the calling of our country. From the Fourteen Points to the Four Freedoms, to the Speech at Westminster, America has put our power at the service of principle. We believe that liberty is the design of nature; we believe that liberty is the direction of history. We believe that human fulfillment and excellence come in the responsible exercise of liberty. And we believe that freedom—the freedom we prize—is not for us alone, it is the right and the capacity of all mankind.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud President Bush for his vision, steadfast commitment and leadership in the advancement of freedom throughout the world.

It is now my distinct privilege to ask unanimous consent that the full text of President Bush's remarks at the 20th anniversary of the National Endowment for Democracy be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at this time.

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH AT THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY

The PRESIDENT. Thank you all very much. Please be seated. Thanks for the warm welcome, and thanks for inviting me to join you in this 20th anniversary of the National Endowment for Democracy. The staff and directors of this organization have seen a lot of history over the last two decades, you've been a part of that history. By speaking for and standing for freedom, you've lifted the hopes of people around the world, and you've brought great credit to America.

I appreciate Vin for the short introduction. I'm a man who likes short introductions. And he didn't let me down. But more importantly, I appreciate the invitation. I appreciate the members of Congress who are here, senators from both political parties, members of the House of Representatives from both political parties. I appreciate the ambassadors who are here. I appreciate the guests who have come. I appreciate the bipartisan spirit, the nonpartisan spirit of the National Endowment for Democracy. I'm glad that Republicans and Democrats and independents are working together to advance human liberty.

The roots of our democracy can be traced to England, and to its Parliament—and so can the roots of this organization. In June of 1982, President Ronald Reagan spoke at Westminster Palace and declared, the turning point had arrived in history. He argued that Soviet communism had failed, precisely because it did not respect its own people—their creativity, their genius and their rights.

President Reagan said that the day of Soviet tyranny was passing, that freedom had a momentum which would not be halted. He gave this organization its mandate: to add to the momentum of freedom across the world. Your mandate was important 20 years ago; it is equally important today. (Applause.)

A number of critics were dismissive of that speech by the President. According to one editorial of the time, "It seems hard to be a sophisticated European and also an admirer of Ronald Reagan." (Laughter.) Some observers on both sides of the Atlantic pronounced the speech simplistic and naive, and even dangerous. In fact, Ronald Reagan's words were courageous and optimistic and entirely correct. (Applause.)

The great democratic movement President Reagan described was already well underway. In the early 1970s, there were about 40 democracies in the world. By the middle of that decade, Portugal and Spain and Greece held free elections. Soon there were new democracies in Latin America, and free institutions were spreading in Korea, in Taiwan, and in East Asia. This very week in 1989, there were protests in East Berlin and in Leipzig. By the end of that year, every communist dictatorship in Central America had collapsed. Within another year, the South African government released Nelson Mandela. Four years later, he was elected president of his country—ascending, like Walesa and Havel, from prisoner of state to head of state.

As the 20th century ended, there were around 120 democracies in the world—and I can assure you more are on the way. (Applause.) Ronald Reagan would be pleased, and he would not be surprised.

We've witnessed, in little over a generation, the swiftest advance of freedom in the 2,500 year story of democracy. Historians in the future will offer their own explanations for why this happened. Yet we already know some of the reasons they will cite. It is no accident that the rise of so many democracies took place in a time when the world's most influential nation was itself a democracy.

The United States made military and moral commitments in Europe and Asia, which protected free nations from aggression, and created the conditions in which new democracies could flourish. As we provided security for whole nations, we also provided inspiration for oppressed peoples. In prison camps, in banned union meetings, in clandestine churches, men and women knew that the whole world was not sharing their own nightmare. They knew of at least one place—a bright and hopeful land—where freedom was valued and secure. And they prayed that America would not forget them, or forget the mission to promote liberty around the world.

Historians will note that in many nations, the advance of markets and free enterprise helped to create a middle class that was confident enough to demand their own rights. They will point to the role of technology in frustrating censorship and central control—and marvel at the power of instant communications to spread the truth, the news, and courage across borders.

Historians in the future will reflect on an extraordinary, undeniable fact: Over time, free nations grow stronger and dictatorships grow weaker. In the middle of the 20th century, some imagined that the central planning and social regimentation were a shortcut to national strength. In fact, the prosperity, and social vitality and technological progress of a people are directly determined by extent of their liberty. Freedom honors and unleashes human creativity—and creativity determines the strength and wealth of nations. Liberty is both the plan of Heav-

en for humanity, and the best hope for progress here on Earth.

The progress of liberty is a powerful trend. Yet, we also know that liberty, if not defended, can be lost. The success of freedom is not determined by some dialectic of history. By definition, the success of freedom rests upon the choices and the courage of free peoples, and upon their willingness to sacrifice. In the trenches of World War I, through a two-front war in the 1940s, the difficult battles of Korea and Vietnam, and in missions of rescue and liberation on nearly every continent, Americans have amply displayed our willingness to sacrifice for liberty.

The sacrifices of Americans have not always been recognized or appreciated, yet they have been worthwhile. Because we and our allies were steadfast, Germany and Japan are democratic nations that no longer threaten the world. A global nuclear standoff with the Soviet Union ended peacefully—as did the Soviet Union. The nations of Europe are moving towards unity, not dividing into armed camps and descending into genocide. Every nation has learned, or should have learned, an important lesson: Freedom is worth fighting for, dying for, and standing for—and the advance of freedom leads to peace. (Applause.)

And now we must apply that lesson in our own time. We've reached another great turning point—and the resolve we show will shape the next stage of the world democratic movement.

Our commitment to democracy is tested in countries like Cuba and Burma and North Korea and Zimbabwe—outposts of oppression in our world. The people in these nations live in captivity, and fear and silence. Yet, these regimes cannot hold back freedom forever—and, one day, from prison camps and prison cells, and from exile, the leaders of new democracies will arrive. (Applause.) Communism, and militarism and rule by the capricious and corrupt are the relics of a passing era. And we will stand with these oppressed peoples until the day of their freedom finally arrives. (Applause.)

Our commitment to democracy is tested in China. That nation now has a sliver, a fragment of liberty. Yet, China's people will eventually want their liberty pure and whole. China has discovered that economic freedom leads to national wealth. China's leaders will also discover that freedom is indivisible—that social and religious freedom is also essential to national greatness and national dignity. Eventually, men and women who are allowed to control their own wealth will insist on controlling their own lives and their own country.

Our commitment to democracy is also tested in the Middle East, which is my focus today, and must be a focus of American policy for decades to come. In many nations of the Middle East—countries of great strategic importance—democracy has not yet taken root. And the questions arise: Are the peoples of the Middle East somehow beyond the reach of liberty? Are millions of men and women and children condemned by history or culture to live in despotism? Are they alone never to know freedom, and never even to have a choice in the matter? I, for one, do not believe it. I believe every person has the ability and the right to be free. (Applause.)

Some skeptics of democracy assert that the traditions of Islam are inhospitable to the representative government. This "cultural condescension," as Ronald Reagan termed it, has a long history. After the Japanese surrender in 1945, a so-called Japan expert asserted that democracy in that former empire would "never work." Another observer declared the prospects for democracy in post-Hitler Germany are, and I quote, "most uncertain at best"—he made that

claim in 1957. Seventy-four years ago, The Sunday London Times declared nine-tenths of the population of India to be "illiterates not caring a fig for politics." Yet when Indian democracy was imperiled in the 1970s, the Indian people showed their commitment to liberty in a national referendum that saved their form of government.

Time after time, observers have questioned whether this country, or that people, or this group, are "ready" for democracy—as if freedom were a prize you win for meeting our own Western standards of progress. In fact, the daily work of democracy itself is the path of progress. It teaches cooperation, the free exchange of ideas, and the peaceful resolution of differences. As men and women are showing, from Bangladesh to Botswana, to Mongolia, it is the practice of democracy that makes a nation ready for democracy, and every nation can start on this path.

It should be clear to all that Islam—the faith of one-fifth of humanity—is consistent with democratic rule. Democratic progress is found in many predominantly Muslim countries—in Turkey and Indonesia, and Senegal and Albania, Niger and Sierra Leone. Muslim men and women are good citizens of India and South Africa, of the nations of Western Europe, and of the United States of America.

More than half of all the Muslims in the world live in freedom under democratically constituted governments. They succeed in democratic societies, not in spite of their faith, but because of it. A religion that demands individual moral accountability, and encourages the encounter of the individual with God, is fully compatible with the rights and responsibilities of self-government.

Yet there's a great challenge today in the Middle East. In the words of a recent report by Arab scholars, the global wave of democracy has—and I quote—"barely reached the Arab states." They continue: "This freedom deficit undermines human development and is one of the most painful manifestations of lagging political development." The freedom deficit they describe has terrible consequences, of the people of the Middle East and for the world. In many Middle Eastern countries, poverty is deep and it is spreading, women lack rights and are denied schooling. Whole societies remain stagnant while the world moves ahead. These are not the failures of a culture or a religion. These are the failures of political and economic doctrines.

As the colonial era passed away, the Middle East saw the establishment of many military dictatorships. Some rulers adopted the dogmas of socialism, seized total control of political parties and the media and universities. They allied themselves with the Soviet bloc and with international terrorism. Dictators in Iraq and Syria promised the restoration of national honor, a return to ancient glories. They've left instead a legacy of torture, oppression, misery, and ruin.

Other men, and groups of men, have gained influence in the Middle East and beyond through an ideology of theocratic terror. Behind their language of religion is the ambition for absolute political power. Ruling cabals like the Taliban show their version of religious piety in public whippings of women, ruthless suppression of any difference or dissent, and support for terrorists who arm and train to murder the innocent. The Taliban promised religious purity and national pride. Instead, by systematically destroying a proud and working society, they left behind suffering and starvation.

Many Middle Eastern governments now understand that military dictatorship and theocratic rule are a straight, smooth highway to nowhere. But some governments still cling to the old habits of central control. There are governments that still fear and repress independent thought and creativity,

and private enterprise—the human qualities that make for a—strong and successful societies. Even when these nations have vast natural resources, they do not respect or develop their greatest resources—the talent and energy of men and women working and living in freedom.

Instead of dwelling on past wrongs and blaming others, governments in the Middle East need to confront real problems, and serve the true interests of their nations. The good and capable people of the Middle East all deserve responsible leadership. For too long, many people in that region have been victims and subjects—they deserve to be active citizens.

Governments across the Middle East and North Africa are beginning to see the need for change. Morocco has a diverse new parliament; King Mohammed has urged it to extend the rights to women. Here is how His Majesty explained his reforms to parliament: “How can society achieve progress while women, who represent half the nation, see their rights violated and suffer as a result of injustice, violence, and marginalization, notwithstanding the dignity and justice granted to them by our glorious religion?” The King of Morocco is correct: The future of Muslim nations will be better for all with the full participation of women. (Applause.)

In Bahrain last year, citizens elected their own parliament for the first time in nearly three decades. Oman has extended the vote to all adult citizens; Qatar has a new constitution; Yemen has a multiparty political system; Kuwait has a directly elected national assembly; and Jordan held historic elections this summer. Recent surveys in Arab nations reveal broad support for political pluralism, the rule of law, and free speech. These are the stirrings of Middle Eastern democracy, and they carry the promise of greater change to come.

As changes come to the Middle Eastern region, those with power should ask themselves: Will they be remembered for resisting reform, or for leading it? In Iran, the demand for democracy is strong and broad, as we saw last month when thousands gathered to welcome home Shirin Ebadi, the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. The regime in Teheran must heed the democratic demands of the Iranian people, or lose its last claim to legitimacy. (Applause.)

For the Palestinian people, the only path to independence and dignity and progress is the path of democracy. (Applause.) And the Palestinian leaders who block and undermine democratic reform, and feed hatred and encourage violence are not leaders at all. They're the main obstacles to peace, and to the success of the Palestinian people.

The Saudi government is taking first steps toward reform, including a plan for gradual introduction of elections. By giving the Saudi people a greater role in their own society, the Saudi government can demonstrate true leadership in the region.

The great and proud nation of Egypt has shown the way toward peace in the Middle East, and now should show the way toward democracy in the Middle East. (Applause.) Champions of democracy in the region understand that democracy is not perfect, it is not the path to utopia, but it's the only path to national success and dignity.

As we watch and encourage reforms in the region, we are mindful that modernization is not the same as Westernization. Representative governments in the Middle East will reflect their own cultures. They will not, and should not, look like us. Democratic nations may be constitutional monarchies, federal republics, or parliamentary systems. And working democracies always need time to develop—as did our own. We've taken a 200 year journey toward inclusion and justice—

and this makes us patient and understanding as other nations are at different stages of this journey.

There are, however, essential principles common to every successful society, in every culture. Successful societies limit the power of the state and the power of the military—so that governments respond to the will of the people, and not the will of an elite. Successful societies protect freedom with the consistent and impartial rule of law, instead of selecting applying—selectively applying the law to punish political opponents. Successful societies allow room for healthy civic institutions—for political parties and labor unions and independent newspapers and broadcast media. Successful societies guarantee religious liberty—the right to serve and honor God without fear of persecution. Successful societies privatize their economies, and secure the rights of property. They prohibit and punish official corruption, and invest in the health and education of their people. They recognize the rights of women. And instead of directing hatred and resentment against others, successful societies appeal to the hopes of their own people. (Applause.)

These vital principles are being applied in the nations of Afghanistan and Iraq. With the steady leadership of President Karzai, the people of Afghanistan are building a modern and peaceful government. Next month, 500 delegates will convene a national assembly in Kabul to approve a new Afghan constitution. The proposed draft would establish a bicameral parliament, set national elections next year, and recognize Afghanistan's Muslim identity, while protecting the rights of all citizens. Afghanistan faces continuing economic and security challenges—it will face those challenges as a free and stable democracy. (Applause.)

In Iraq, the Coalition Provisional Authority and the Iraqi Governing Council are also working together to build a democracy—and after three decades of tyranny, this work is not easy. The former dictator ruled by terror and treachery, and left deeply ingrained habits of fear and distrust. Remnants of his regime, joined by foreign terrorists, continue their battle against order and against civilization. Our coalition is responding to recent attacks with precision raids, guided by intelligence provided by the Iraqis, themselves. And we're working closely with Iraqi citizens as they prepare a constitution, as they move toward free elections and take increasing responsibility for their own affairs. As in the defense of Greece in 1947, and later in the Berlin Airlift, the strength and will of free peoples are now being tested before a watching world. And we will meet this test. (Applause.)

Securing democracy in Iraq is the work of many hands. American and coalition forces are sacrificing for the peace of Iraq and for the security of free nations. Aid workers from many countries are facing danger to help the Iraqi people. The National Endowment for Democracy is promoting women's rights, and training Iraqi journalists, and teaching the skills of political participation. Iraqis, themselves—police and borders guards and local officials—are joining in the work and they are sharing in the sacrifice.

This is a massive and difficult undertaking—it is worth our effort, it is worth our sacrifice, because we know the stakes. The failure of Iraqi democracy would embolden terrorists around the world, increase dangers to the American people, and extinguish the hopes of millions in the region. Iraqi democracy will succeed—and that success will send forth the news, from Damascus to Teheran—that freedom can be the future of every nation. (Applause.) The establishment of a free Iraq at the heart of the Middle East will be

a watershed event in the global democratic revolution. (Applause.)

Sixty years of Western nations excusing and accommodating the lack of freedom in the Middle East did nothing to make us safe—because in the long run, stability cannot be purchased at the expense of liberty. As long as the Middle East remains a place where freedom does not flourish, it will remain a place of stagnation, resentment, and violence ready for export. And with the spread of weapons that can bring catastrophic harm to our country and to our friends, it would be reckless to accept the status quo. (Applause.)

Therefore, the United States has adopted a new policy, a forward strategy of freedom in the Middle East. This strategy requires the same persistence and energy and idealism we have shown before. And it will yield the same results. As in Europe, as in Asia, as in every region of the world, the advance of freedom leads to peace. (Applause.)

The advance of freedom is the calling of our time; it is the calling of our country. From the Fourteen Points to the Four Freedoms, to the Speech at Westminster, America has put our power at the service of principle. We believe that liberty is the design of nature; we believe that liberty is the direction of history. We believe that human fulfillment and excellence come in the responsible exercise of liberty. And we believe that freedom—the freedom we prize—is not for us alone, it is the right and the capacity of all mankind. (Applause.)

Working for the spread of freedom can be hard. Yet, America has accomplished hard tasks before. Our nation is strong; we're strong of heart. And we're not alone. Freedom is finding allies in every country; freedom finds allies in every culture. And as we meet the terror and violence of the world, we can be certain the author of freedom is not indifferent to the fate of freedom.

With all the tests and all the challenges of our age, this is, above all, the age of liberty. Each of you at this Endowment is fully engaged in the great cause of liberty. And I thank you. May God bless your work. And may God continue to bless America. (Applause.)

TRIBUTE TO W. JASON MORGAN

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, this week, W. Jason Morgan was awarded the National Medal of Science Award at the White House for discoveries underlying modern studies of earthquakes and volcanoes.

A geophysicist, W. Jason Morgan has been selected to receive the National Medal of Science—the nation's highest scientific honor—for theories that describe how land masses move, volcanoes arise and many other features of the land and sea take shape.

W. Jason Morgan, the Knox Taylor Professor of Geography at Princeton University, is among eight scientists and engineers selected to receive the award.

The award recognizes Morgan for his work in pioneering two fundamental ideas—plate tectonics and mantle plumes. The first describes how the Earth's surface consists of a dozen plates that move with respect to each other. This work provided a unified framework for understanding earthquakes and volcanoes

as well as the formation of continents, mountains, ocean basins and other surface features. It also underlies nearly all current research into deposits of petroleum and other natural resources and the evolution of the Earth's climate and life.

The theory of plate tectonics he published in 1968 is one of the major milestones of U.S. science in the 20th century, said Anthony Dahlen, chair of the Princeton Department of Geosciences.

Essentially all of the research in solid-earth geophysical sciences in the past 30 to 35 years has been firmly grounded upon Jason Morgan's plate tectonic theory, Dahlen said. The scientific careers of a generation of geologists and geophysicists have been founded upon his landmark 1968 paper.

The second area of Morgan's work cited in the award explains how heat within the Earth forces columns of solid, but ductile material through the Earth's mantle creating "hot spots" at the surface. This rising material, known as a mantle plume, causes ridges and volcanoes to form when oceanic plates pass above it. Morgan first reported his findings regarding mantle plumes in 1971 and has published first-hand on the subject over the last three decades.

I am thrilled to see Jason Morgan honored so appropriately, said Princeton University President Shirley M. Tilghman. He is not only a remarkable scientist, but a skilled and enthusiastic teacher. He has mentored generations of students, often taking them into the field to experience first-hand the power of science to explain the most basic workings of our planet.

After receiving a bachelor's degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology, Morgan came to Princeton as a graduate student in physics and studied under Robert Dicke, a renowned mentor of many important 20th-century physicists. Morgan received his Ph.D. in 1964 and joined the geosciences department the same year. In 1988, he was named to Princeton's Taylor professorship. He has received numerous awards, including the Japan Prize, the Maurice Ewing Medal, the Leon Lutaud Prize, the Alfred Wegener Medal and the Walter Bucher Award. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1982. Morgan has announced he will retire in February 2004.

I congratulate Mr. Morgan on his award, and I thank him for the contributions he has made to better our society.

TRIBUTE TO BETHEL BAPTIST
CHURCH OF KANSAS CITY, KAN-
SAS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Bethel Baptist Church of Kansas City, Kansas, on reaching its 84th anniversary, which will occur on November 23rd. This church was organized in 1919 under the leadership of the first pastor, the late Reverend Harris. While many ministers have served this church, none has meant more to the church than the current pastor, Reverend R.C. Higgs. Pastor Higgs has led Bethel Baptist Church for 43 years, over half of the years of the church's existence.

During the last 84 years, the Bethel Baptist Church has helped hundreds in the church and in the community of Kansas City, Kansas. I know the House joins me in wishing Pastor Higgs and his congregants our very best on this anniversary, and for many more years of spiritual and community leadership in Kansas City and the Third Congressional District of Kansas.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and pay tribute to America's heroic veterans. I am proud to represent over 34,000 veterans who live in the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois. As we observe Veterans Day this year, perhaps there is no greater time in American history to reflect on what it means to be a veteran.

Our country's sense of security is being defended by the soldiers fighting the global war on terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan. Through the example of the brave men and women in uniform who fought during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War or the Gulf War, today's troops know they can and will persevere even as they face extended tours of duty and grueling and frightening conditions on a daily basis.

There is no better way to honor those who sacrificed their lives for our country than by ensuring that today's veterans are treated with dignity and respect. We must do that with more than words and symbolic gestures of patriotism. We must honor the soldiers, marines, sailors and airmen of wars past and present by ensuring that the covenant they entered when they donned the uniform and served our country is maintained. Regardless of the economic climate, this nation must keep its promises to veterans to provide the health care, education, and financial benefits our veterans have earned.

Mr. Speaker, next week when I join veterans in the 5th District at the Franklin Park U.S. Military Armed Forces Veterans Memorial, the Northcenter Flag-Raising Ceremony, and the Mayfair Community Veterans Memorial, I will thank our veterans for their service, sacrifice and commitment to duty to protect the freedom that we enjoy. I will also thank the families of those brave men and women in uniform who will become our nation's newest veterans upon their return. We will always remember their valor and service to America.

I thank our veterans one and all for their service, sacrifice, and commitment to duty, which has been to stand vigilant and strong while protecting the freedom that we enjoy. I also thank the families of those brave men and women in uniform who will become our Nation's most recent veterans upon their return. We will always remember the valor and service to America.

CONGRATULATING THE CONCORD
HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING MIN-
UTEMEN ON THEIR CLASS B
STATE BAND CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Concord Marching Minutemen on their Class B Indiana State School Music Association Championship. The young men and women of the Concord High School marching band, located in my District in Elkhart, Indiana, competed in the ISSMA championships on Sunday, October 26, in the RCA Dome in Indianapolis, Indiana. On this day, Mr. Speaker, Concord marched out of the RCA Dome as champions.

Concord was the final band to compete in the class, proving the old adage "Save the best for last." I've been told the band delivered a flawless performance of its colorful "Guitarras Espanoles," which includes "La Fiesta Mexicana" and "Malaguena."

This was the band's second championship. They won their first in 1992. I'd like to congratulate drum majors Ryan Tahara, Sarah Nagy and Patrick Doherty for leading their band to victory.

The 2003 Class B champs include: Piccolo: Amanda Bechtel, Brynne Bourdon; Flute: Kelly Aaron, Peter Boshart, Alyssa Byrum, Ashley Hardy, Danielle Hudkins, Anita Kaoma, Renae Kerwood, Mindy Lux, Rachel McKenzie, April Miller, Erica Moskowitz, Luke Overton, Emily Parks, Amber Parsons, Cassie Rhude, Erica Schmucker, Whitney VanHook, Brittany Victor, Brandi Walters, Libby Watson, Kim Yoder; Clarinet: Audrey Acosta, Marisa Amos, Kate Barghahn, Christine Cameron, Heather Collins, Lacey Conwell, Daniela de la Reza, Diana de la Reza, Kimberlie Dina, Dustin Doherty, Julie Elmore, Amy Guarnuccio, Megan Gunn, Jenni Hillyer, Mandy Himes, Michelle James, Alarice Johnson, Kylie Kern, Kayla Killian, Catie Lynch, Nicole Lynch, Kaitlin McClure, Holly Meyers, Jessica Miller, Larisa Murray, Laura Pauwels, Jordan Reyes, Erin Shroyer, Mark, Smith, Nicole Smith, Monica Torres; Bass Clarinet: Ana Rodriguez, Kimberly Berndt, Logan Bourdon, Carl Byler, Cora Christophel, Amy Fager, Jon Rhoades, Andrew Troyer, Brian Zimmerle; Alto Saxophone: Cameron Bradley, Megan Cikara, Deb Elliott, Lizzie Fish, Celby Hadley, Dustin Knight, Mike Koscielny, Ryan Perkins, Matthew Schmucker, Stephanie Stevens, Aaron Yoder; Tenor Saxophone: Josh Cranmer, Ian Faigh, Ryan Shroyer, Kayleigh Shurtz, Daniel Weaver; Trumpet: Blake Baker, Missy Barton, Megan Bortner, Mark Brown, Andrew Christophel, Vanessa Clark, Thomas Davidhizar, Andrew Davis, Ryan Detwiler, Colin Doherty, Daniel Fischer, Evan Jarvis, Bradley Kime, Grant Longenbaugh, Richie Lutes, Tyler Maxey, Julie McCarty, Keith McCrorey, Jason Miller, Justin Moore, Jared Nymeyer, Jeremy Parker, Ross Sawyer, Kelly Schaffer, Laurie Schalliol, Jim Schoeffler, Craig Searer, Sam Shafer, Nakia Simpson, Andrew Smole, Bryce Victor, Justin Watts, A J Willett, Ellen Wilson, Adam Yoder; Mellophone: Melanie Gingerich, Genni Housman, Stephen Kauffman, Mike Kennel, Amy Kronemyer, Kathy Lambright, Samantha Nagy,

Megan Shaw, Melissa Toby; Trombone: Sean Allison, Jeremy Crawford, Katie Dina, Derek Eller, Sean Emmons, Chad Hoiem, Brandy Jackson, Steven Karanja, Brent Lehman, Kevin Lipp, Veronica Meade, Betsy Ritchie, Alec Sanderson, Brandon Schenk, Andrew Stout, Kenneth White, Teneen Zimmer; Baritone: Jeffrey Eads, Bryan Eichorst, John Kauffman, Matthew Lanouette, Derek Lipp, Ryan McCarty, Trenton Prieshoff, Robert Stout, Alan Tack, Paul Tucker; Tuba: Aaron Bowser, Jonathan Freel, Suzanne Holcomb, Jared Klingler, Brandon Long, Jeremy Rowe, Andrew Trosper; Guitar: Jordan Swartzendruber, Matt Tompkins; Snare Drum: Lisa Bennett, Jennifer Bollero, Eric Rhude, Nick Stubbs; Quad Drums: John Bibbee, George Wright; Bass Drum: Justin Miracle, Derek Richard, Michael Johnson, Susie Bower, Brandon Dascoli; Cymbals: Bryce Canen, April Mascola, Dustin McLain, Bryant Quist, Sarah Runswick; Percussion Pit: Cory Allison, Amy Clark, Jonathan Faloon, Eric Foley, Matthew Schnaars, Andrew Stevens, Mark Wyrick; Color Guard: Elise Arvidson, Alicia Baer, Tiffany Baker, Mandy Beer, Karen Berndt, Ashley Bunch, Heather Dean, Hillary Durie, Mikala Ellsworth, Ashley Faloon, Ashley Guerra, Olivia Guevara, Chrissy Hoover, Jessica Hoover, Brittney Houston, DeAnna Jackson, Danielle Johnson, Leanne Johnson, Audrey Lanning, Allison Matthews, Jessica Meade, Amber Miller, Kourtney Mumaw, Kelly Perkins, Jessica Scott, Tara Scott, Jill Sheldon, Rachel Sirinek, Sierra Smith, Kristen Weaver.

I would also like to congratulate Director of Music Max Jones, Associate Band Director Scott Spradling, Assistant Band Directors Scott Spradling, April Duffey, Bryan Golden and Steve Peterson, Dance & Color Guard instructor Colleen Piekarz, Sound Technicians Aaron Ulrich and Scott Preheim, and Percussion Specialist Amy Davis for developing an award-winning program. Shirley Dyer, Dianne Jones, Matt Hall, Kelly Novy, and Katie Shouffer also deserve a note of thanks for helping make things run smoothly.

Mr. Speaker, you have to admire the dedication of the students, instructors and parents. It takes a lot of long hours and hard work to be a champion and the young men and women at Concord High School have proven they have what it takes to be champions.

Again, on behalf of the citizens of the Second Congressional District, I would like to congratulate the Concord Marching Minutemen on their Class B state championship. We are all proud of you.

IN SUPPORT OF OUR NATION'S
VETERANS

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of our nation's veterans. These brave men and women risked their lives for their country—for our country. We owe it to them to live up to all of the promises that we made when they entered the military.

I go home every weekend, and I hear from the veterans in my community. These veterans don't have a multi-specialty clinic; they

don't have a hospital, and they don't have a long term care facility. But southern Nevada does have one of the fastest growing veterans populations in the nation.

Because of this growth, the VA predicts that the number of annual visits by veterans in the Las Vegas Valley to their primary health care clinic will rise from 200,000 now to more than half-a-million by the end of the decade. And the number of hospital beds needed to serve the veterans in my community will increase by over 50 percent.

The VA is already struggling to address and meet the current demands on the VA health care structure in the Las Vegas Valley, and these demands will only continue to grow.

Last year, 1500 southern Nevada veterans were sent to neighboring states because we could not provide the needed services locally. This is an unfair burden on these veterans and their families. They should not have to travel hundreds of miles for care.

To make matters worse, the VA evacuated the Guy Clinic—the Las Vegas Valley's only ambulatory care clinic after only 5 years of service—forcing veterans to rely on a string of temporary clinics scattered across the community.

Imagine what it is like for an 80-year-old veteran waiting in the desert heat to be shuttled from clinic to clinic to receive the health care he needs. For example, a veteran may have to shuttle from a temporary site for a CT scan, then to another site to obtain a prescription for a controlled narcotic, and then to a third site for mental health services.

And female veterans who need mammograms will have to shuttle to a different clinic just for that service.

As one 81-year old World War II veteran described the situation, "You're going from one place to another and it gets confusing." Don't our veterans deserve a permanent facility to meet their health care needs?

In short, southern Nevada is facing a veterans health care crisis and my community is not alone. But here in Washington, Republicans have refused to provide an additional \$1.8 billion for veterans health care this year.

As a nation, we promised our veterans that we would meet their health care needs, but we have not. We promised to provide them with affordable housing and access to a college education, but we have fallen far short. We have broken one promise after another to those who have put their lives on the line to serve their country. Consider the Disabled Veterans Tax. Under this unfair tax, disabled veterans who retire from the military lose one dollar from their military retirement pay for every dollar they receive for a service connected disability.

When a retired Marine Corps major from Nevada was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease, he lost more than \$2,000 in monthly retirement pay because of the Disabled Veterans Tax. To make up for that loss of income, his wife had to work overtime just to make ends meet at home.

I support the Democratic plan that gives our veterans full payment of both retirement pay and disability pay. It is unconscionable that Republicans, who say they support our country's veterans, still have not allowed Members of this body to vote on ending the Disabled Veterans Tax.

Instead they have offered a plan that will take 10 years to enact and penalizes those

veterans with a 40 percent or less disability rating. But it isn't just honoring the commitments to our men and women who fought for this country, it is also about their families. Whether it is income lost because of the Disabled Veterans Tax or the financial burden a family faces when they lose their loved one.

That is why I introduced legislation that would increase the benefits to cover veterans' burial costs. Since 1973, when burial benefits were enacted, these benefits have seriously eroded due to inflation. For example, in 1973, the burial allowance for veterans with service connected injury covered 72 percent of funeral costs. Now, the benefit covers only 39 percent of the funeral costs.

Our veterans' families are forced to make up the costs. And for a widow or widower struggling with the loss of a loved one, this financial strain can take a tremendous emotional toll.

Our veterans not only deserve better, they deserve the best we have to offer. It is time for all Members of Congress to honor the commitments we made to those who fought and are currently fighting around the world for our nation. Support for our veterans is more than rousing rhetoric on Veterans' Day, it is doing what is fair and moral to fulfill our duties and promises to them.

HONORING AFRICAN AMERICAN
VETERANS

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Few people realize that even before there was a Declaration of Independence or a Constitution, African-Americans could be counted among our most dedicated revolutionaries. In the fall of 1775, the Continental Army tried to appease large landholders in the South by barring all slaves and most freemen from enlisting or re-enlisting. But by the end of the year the war took a turn for the worse, and the order was rescinded. So on Christmas night, in 1776, African-American soldiers made that famous crossing of the Delaware River with Washington to help him capture the Hessians at Trenton. All told, some 5,000 African-Americans served for the cause of Independence, and their sacrifices have been little remembered but should never be forgotten.

There has never been any war fought involving America, whether in time of slavery or freedom, segregation or integration, that African Americans did not serve and become major contributors in serving their country. African American veterans have a long honor roll in serving America. During World War II more than one million African Americans in uniform distinguished themselves as P-40 fighter pilots and Navy Seabees, Sherman tank drivers, orderlies and engineers. Let us remember Dorie Miller, a steward aboard the USS *Arizona* at Pearl Harbor, who saw his captain fall wounded and pulled him to safety and then despite the fire, he manned a machine gun and downed several enemy planes.

At the Battle of the Bulge the men of the 3496th Truck Company hauled weapons, soldiers and prisoners down roads that the rain

had turned into rivers of mud and ice. They unloaded their 2.5 ton trucks as mortars fell all around them.

Also, let us remember the Tuskegee Airmen of World War II who overcame resentment, suspicion and segregation to become the first African-American fighter pilots, and time and again they flew over 1,500 combat missions and never lost a single bomber under their escort on bombing runs into Germany. When African Americans broke the color barrier in the Marine Corps, they went to the frontlines of Guam, Saipan, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Although these are just a few instances of African Americans having courage, valor, bravery and commitment to the ideas in preserving and fighting for freedom and justice for all. We as a people have a long history of achievement in defending and protecting America's sovereignty. It was revealed in a few, even though many African Americans in earlier years were excluded from recognition due to pervasive racism, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor. The Congressional Medal of Honor was approved by President Lincoln on December 21, 1861 for the Navy and July 12, 1862 for the Army, it is the highest American award for military valor.

There were 23 Congressional Medals of Honor awarded to African Americans for bravery and gallantry in the Civil War. Eight Medals of Honor for Naval service recipients from 1865 to 1898, 17 Medals of Honor during the Western Campaigns, 6 Medals of Honor for the Spanish-American War, one Medal of Honor to Corporal Freddie Stowers of the 370th Infantry Regiment, 93rd Infantry Division which was awarded in 1991. Seven Medals of Honor for World War II African American veterans who were not awarded until 1997, when only one of seven—Vernon Baker—was still alive (four of the seven were killed in action).

Today, I commend all of our veterans who fought and lost their lives to defend our country from the Revolutionary war of 1775 to 1781, the War of 1812, Civil War 1861 to 1865, Spanish-American War 1898, World War I 1917 to 1918, World War II 1941 to 1945, Korean conflict 1950 to 1953, Vietnam conflict 1960 to 1972, Persian Gulf War 1991, and our future veterans of the Iraq conflict. Thank you for your service.

TRIBUTE TO THE ALABAMA SOLDIERS WHO SERVED IN THE KOREAN WAR

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

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the soldiers from Alabama who answered President Truman's call to protect democracy and stop the spread of communist aggression across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, the Korean War was supposed to be a short and a decisive victory for our soldiers. However, from 1950 to 1953, our country was embattled in a bitter fight along the 38th Parallel. All told, over 750 soldiers from Alabama perished during this conflict. However, when the fighting ceased and the guns were finally silenced, South Korea remained a free and democratic state.

For many people, the Korean War is known as the forgotten war. This is an unfortunate

misrepresentation. Mr. Speaker, the Korean War set the precedent that the United States will not sit idle as aggressors invade and try to destroy another nation's freedom. The Korean War is a war that cannot, and will not be forgotten.

Tomorrow in Athens, Alabama, Edward McMunn and the other members of the Alabama Korean War Commemorative Committee will unveil and dedicate a monument to honor the Alabama soldiers who died during the Korean War. The monument includes a central marble stone memorial with an engraved map of Korea that is surrounded by four carved granite stones on pedestals bearing the names of each soldier.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow's ceremony is a fitting tribute to those that died in the defense of freedom and democracy. On behalf of all the residents of North Alabama, I commend Edward McMunn, and all the members of the Alabama Korean War Commemorative Committee, for their hard work and dedication that made this monument become a reality.

TRIBUTE TO EVELYN M. WITKIN

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today at the White House, Evelyn M. Witkin was awarded the National Medal of Science Award, the nation's highest science and engineering honor.

"The ideas and breakthroughs in fundamental science and engineering by these extraordinary pioneers have influenced thousands of other researchers," said Rita Colwell, director of the National Science Foundation (NSF). "We now see the daily evidence of the tremendous advancements in technological capabilities, human health and vast new knowledge within our physical world due to these heroes of science we celebrate today," Colwell said.

The National Medal of Science, established by the 86th Congress in 1959 and administered by the NSF, honors the impact of individuals on the present state of knowledge in the physical, biological, mathematical, engineering, social and behavioral sciences. Not including the 2002 recipients, the medal has been awarded to 409 distinguished scientists and engineers, including three previous Rutgers winners.

Witkin was largely responsible for creating the field of DNA mutagenesis and DNA repair, which focuses on how mutations, most of which are unhealthy, occur in DNA and how they may be corrected. Her work, which furthered our understanding of the genetic response to harmful environmental factors such as radiation, has played an important role in the biochemical sciences and in clinical radiation therapy for cancer.

"I had no idea that anything like this was possible. I am very gratified by the award," said Witkin. "That I was nominated by colleagues means a lot to me, having been in the field of genetics since the mid-1940's."

Witkin's investigations into DNA repair led to her discovery of genes that can heighten bacterial resistance to DNA-damaging agents. In 1973, while on the faculty of Rutgers' Douglass College, she defined the *E. coli* "SOS Re-

sponse," a system that is triggered by DNA damage. This system activates at least 40 genes that promote DNA repair and enhances individual and population survival. We now know that humans and many other organisms use the same kinds of DNA repair mechanisms.

Witkin came to Douglass College in 1971 and taught in the department of biology for 12 years. She then spent eight years on the faculty of the Waksman Institute of Microbiology until her retirement in 1991.

I congratulate Evelyn Witkin on her award, and I thank her for the contribution she has made to improve our society.

IN RECOGNITION OF VETERANS' DAY 2004

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Veterans' Day. It is my honor to acknowledge the men and women who have fought in the Armed Forces to protect the United States from all enemies, foreign and domestic. Observed on November 11, each year, Veteran's Day is a national day of honor, respect, and remembrance of the sacrifice of the few to protect the freedoms of the many. So today I rise with pride for America's veterans, both past and present, and salute them for their service.

The year was 1918. On the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month, the world was finally at peace after the bloody ending of WWI, the war to end all wars. Veteran's Day was first established as a national holiday on May 13, 1938, twenty years after the conclusion of the war, and was intended to honor those who fought in WWI. Originally called, "Armistice Day," this holiday was intended to celebrate world peace and mutual understanding among nations. Congress proclaimed that all government buildings display the flag of the United States as well as observe the day in schools, churches, and all other areas of public and private services.

Although Armistice Day was intended to honor only those who fought in WWI, the events of the next two decades quickly changed the sentiments of Americans. In 1954, after WWII claimed the most lives and machine power of any war in history, and following the conclusion of the Korean conflict, the 83rd Congress struck out the words "Armistice" and inserted "Veterans" in its stead. Thus, the national holiday observed on November 11th would no longer honor just those veterans of WWI, but all veterans of all wars and would hence be known as Veterans' Day.

Later that same year, President Eisenhower instituted a Veterans' Day Committee, which would be chaired by the Administer of Veterans' Affairs. This new committee, headed by the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, would oversee all appointments and national planning around the holiday.

The first major change to Veterans' Day came on June 28, 1968, when Congress passed the Uniforms Holiday bill. This bill sought to give the American people four, three-day holidays during the year. Those holidays included, George Washington's Birthday,

Memorial Day, Veterans' Day, and Columbus Day, were all rearranged and moved to different days. Most states refused to obey, however, and continued to recognize these holidays on their original days. The first Veterans' Day under this new law did not fall on November 11th as it previously had, but on October 25th.

Realizing the importance of these holidays, especially Veterans' Day, President Gerald Ford signed Public Law 94-97 on September 20, 1975. This law reversed the Uniforms Holiday law and moved Veterans' Day back to its original date of November 11, starting in 1978.

With the change back to November 11th, the history and honor of the holiday remains intact and the memory of those that fought and died in service of the United States in all major conflicts is preserved forever. Regardless of the day, Veterans' Day continues to remain one of the most respected and honored holidays of the year and always inspires the nation to reflect. Today, there are many organizations that sponsor a year-round tribute to veterans, such as the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. On Veterans' Day, these groups raise money for charities in memory and honor of the wounded men and women who have returned from war.

As we speak, the United States and indeed the world are again at war. The war on terrorism reaches all corners of the globe and is in no way uniquely American. The men and women who bravely fight for freedom in Iraq, Afghanistan, and all other countries where freedom is opposed, deserve equal praise as those who fought before them.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, November 11, 2004, I, along with millions of fellow Americans, will proudly honor those men and women who have fought, and continue to fight, for our freedom. Our veterans made the ultimate sacrifice by placing themselves in harms way when they served our country to protect the liberty all humankind deserves. May God bless our veterans and may He continue to bless America.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 1904, HEALTHY FOREST RES-
TORATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in support of the principle of open conference committee meetings that are bipartisan as well as bicameral, as required in H.R. 1904. It is past time that this body return to the basic principles of democracy in its own practices.

Yesterday, I had the privilege of leading the entire bipartisan House delegation from California and many members from other states in honoring those firefighters and other public servants who worked so heroically to fight the devastating wildfires which we have just experienced in Southern California. That was the time to focus solely on the celebration of human courage and sacrifice.

Today, it is time to come together to find the best possible legislation that will finally focus on how to protect our urban environments

from wildfires—whether they are frequent seasonal fires or the massive, historically destructive fire we suffered last week.

First, it is important for everyone to be clear that the Cedar fire in San Diego County was initially and primarily fueled by the chaparral which covers the mesas and foothills of Southern California. Later, it also moved into our national forest lands, where many of the trees had been affected by the beetle infestation.

As I toured the Cedar Fire area in San Diego by helicopter, it was stunning to realize the speed with which the firestorm driven by the Santa Ana winds overtook hundreds of thousands of acres of our open lands, much of which are public not private lands.

This fire was not about environmental laws preventing logging that would have prevented this fire. It was not about lack of roads that hindered fighting the fires.

It was about the failure to prevent the build-up of fuel by using authorized funding for removal of hazardous material which is adjacent to urban areas and the failure of the federal government to supply funds to deal with the pest infestations in these forests, as the Governor requested last spring and FEMA declined to do.

While it may or may not be possible to find the best legislation and also meet the deadline included in this bill, there are several basic principles that must be in the final conference bill. Many of them are found in the bill just passed by the Senate.

First, we must prioritize the protection for urban areas.

Second, there must be significant money authorized for this purpose. While there may be authorization in other bills for "such sums" as may be necessary to address hazardous fuel reduction, we in Congress have inadequately appropriated these funds because they are not specified.

Instead, the funds which have been allocated for treatment and prevention have been required to fight the fires that result from inadequate protection. Real funding must be clearly identified and available to begin the needed protection. It must not be based solely on the sale of logged trees because so much of our land needing fuel reduction is covered with chaparral, which has no logging value. We must also be sure that this legislation will continue to protect old growth timber.

I believe that the members of the committees going to conference can and will be able to fashion a conference report that can be a model for returning this Congress to open, bipartisan, bicameral conferences that reach appropriate, compromise legislation. I look forward to this result.

TRIBUTE TO TENNESSEE SENATOR
DOUGLAS HENRY

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to one of Nashville, Tennessee's most beloved citizens. Through many years of public service, he is building a legacy of selfless devotion to his state, his home city and his state senate district.

Senator Douglas Henry is being honored this weekend by the Friends of Radnor Lake

for his three decades of commitment to conservation issues. In 1973, Senator Henry worked tirelessly to be certain that Radnor Lake was named Tennessee's first state natural area. He has continued to work to protect the lake and the funding necessary to support the protection of the natural area.

Senator Douglas Henry could be honored on this floor for any number of reasons. He has chaired the Finance committee of the Tennessee senate for many years, he is a staunch supporter for the rights of women and children and has a deep interest in public policy affecting them. He has served as chairman of the Southern Legislative conference and the Council of World Regions, the Law and Justice Institute in Washington, DC. However, it is my pleasure to stand today and honor him, not only for these accomplishments but for the commitment to preservation and conservation that he has to his district and our state.

HONORING BOULDER CITY LEND A
HAND AND THE LATE ED AN-
DREWS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Boulder City Lend A Hand and the late Ed Andrews, one of Lend A Hand's most active and well-known volunteers. Ed, originally from Los Angeles and a leader in the aviation industry, joined Boulder City Lend A Hand just one year after its founding in 1989, and quickly became Master of Ceremonies for their events and a hard-working team member for its primary mission, providing assistance to Senior Citizens in Boulder City. Ed was famous for his booming voice, which endeared him to all who knew him and quickly earned the respect of those who didn't.

Sadly, Ed Andrews passed away in March of 2003, and is survived by his wife Nita, one of the founders of Boulder City Lend A Hand, two daughters and three sons, and many grandchildren. Ed will be missed by all who knew him, especially those whom he served in Boulder City.

Lend A Hand is a program designed to help the elderly and chronically ill of Boulder City, Nevada remain in their homes by providing a variety of services by volunteers. Services include staying with persons needing assistance so that their caregivers can 'take a break' for rest and relaxation or to attend to personal business. Other services available are helping individuals by running errands, going shopping, driving to medical appointments or by providing companion services in the home.

I am pleased to be a supporter of Boulder City Lend A Hand, and to have had the opportunity to know Ed. I urge the House to join me in remembering Ed Andrews, thanking his wife Nita for her service to the community, and honoring Boulder City Lend A Hand for its commitment to meeting the needs of our seniors.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD WITTEN

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today at the White House, Edward Witten was awarded the National Medal of Science Award, the nation's highest science and engineering honor.

The presidential medal is the nation's highest honor for researchers who make major impacts in fields of science and engineering through career-long, ground-breaking achievements. The medal, established by Congress in 1959, also recognizes contributions to innovation, industry or education.

Edward Witten, the Charles Simonyi Professor of Physics at the Institute for Advanced Study, received the award "for his leadership role in advancing a broad range of topics in theoretical physics, including attempts to understand the fundamental forces of nature through string theory; and his unparalleled inspiration in using insights from physics to unify apparently disparate mathematical areas." Professor Witten may be best known as the world leader in "string theory," an attempt by physicists to describe in one unified way all the known forces of nature, as well as to understand nature at the most basic level. The combination of the four fundamental forces (electromagnetic, strong, weak, and gravitational) in one theoretical framework was a goal sought, but unattained by Albert Einstein. The concept underlying string theory is to replace the usual point-like representation of fundamental particles with vanishingly small vibrating strings. This resolves an incompatibility between quantum mechanics and general relativity, which is the premier challenge of theoretical physics. Dr. Witten's original contributions and incisive surveys have set the agenda for many developments, such as the progress in "dualities," which suggest that all known string theories are related.

Dr. Witten's earliest papers produced advances in quantum chromodynamics (QCD), a theory that describes the interactions among the fundamental particles (quarks and gluons) that make up all nuclei. In particular, he solved the problem of expressing radioactive corrections arising from heavy particles in terms of effective light quarks. In other early work, he understood how to combine properties of the Dirac equation with those of the Riemann curvature tensor, to get a new formula for the gravitational energy, and to give a new and direct proof of the positive energy theorem in general relativity. He also discovered new solutions of the equations of C.N. Yang and Robert Mills, and realized their importance for physics.

Dr. Witten discovered many relations between "supersymmetric quantum theory" and geometry. Supersymmetry lies at the basis of a picture of fundamental particles studied at the Fermilab Tevatron, and soon at the Large Hadron Collider under construction at CERN. Dr. Witten showed that a mathematical theory of Michael Atiyah and I.M. Singer parallels supersymmetry and plays a central role in particle physics. He applied this concept to the study of nonperturbative supersymmetry breaking. He used this same concept to produce a new derivation of a fundamental mathematical theory of Marston Morse.

One of Dr. Witten's deepest mathematical insights arose from his glimpsing the relation between the physics of gauge theory and the mathematics of knots. This work has led to a revolution in mathematics, including the understanding of the classification of higher dimensional spaces. For this work, Dr. Witten became the only theoretical physicist ever to receive the Fields Medal, the most prestigious award in pure mathematics. Conversely, Dr. Witten was broadly responsible for the demonstration that algebraic geometry and topology, core disciplines of modern mathematics, hold the key to understanding the deepest properties of string theory and gauge field theory.

Dr. Witten is as clear and engaging a speaker as he is a creative and powerful theorist. I find it especially commendable that he also is an effective thinker and worker for peace and social justice in the Middle East and the world.

Dr. Witten, who has been on the Faculty of the Institute for Advanced Study since 1987, is the recipient of a 1982 MacArthur Fellowship; the 1985 Einstein Medal from the Einstein Society of Berne, Switzerland; the 1985 Dirac Medal from the International Center for Theoretical Physics; the 1990 Fields Medal; and numerous other awards. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the National Academy of Sciences, a foreign member of the Royal Society, and an associate member of the Academy of Sciences of Paris. Ed Witten is a good friend of mine, and I am pleased to congratulate him on his award, and I thank him for the contribution he has made to improve our knowledge and understanding.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ENACTMENT OF INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note that tomorrow, on November 8, 2003, will mark the 25th anniversary of enactment of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). At a time when American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and families throughout the country were being ravaged by abusive child welfare practices that caused untold thousands of American Indian and Alaska Native children to be unnecessarily placed in foster homes, adoptive homes and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) boarding schools, the 95th Congress said no more and unanimously adopted the ICWA. I am proud to have been a member when that occurred—truly one of the finest moments in the history of Congress and in my service.

The ICWA stands as perhaps the most important Indian law the Congress has enacted. For the first and only time, Congress explicitly acknowledged that the trust responsibility of the United States extends to "protecting American Indian and Alaska Native children" and the integrity of Native American families and tribes, a sine qua non to this Nation's commitment to securing the "continued existence and integrity" of Indian tribes as both governments and societies.

The ICWA recognized that tribes have a *parens patriae* relationship to their children that supersedes any like interest of the States. Accordingly, the law enhances the sovereign right of tribes to determine, under tribal law, whether and under what circumstances children require out-of-home placement. Concomitantly, the law reduces and conditions the authority of States in this regard by compelling an overarching commitment to preventing out-of-home and out-of-tribe placement of American Indian and Alaska Native children. When, as a last resort, placement occurs, the ICWA requires States to make every effort to return American Indian and Alaska Native children to their families and tribal communities. And, when that is not possible, the ICWA mandates that, except in unusual circumstances, these children are preferentially placed in tribal homes.

In the 25 years since enactment, the fulfillment of ICWA's purpose "to protect the best interest of American Indian and Alaska Native children" has been remarkable. Tribes have acted forcefully to help keep families intact. Because of the ICWA, many tribes and States have developed significant cooperative relationships aimed at eliminating State child welfare practices harmful to American Indian and Alaska Native families and children and implementing policies and practices targeted at maintaining the integrity of American Indian and Alaska Native families and tribes. As a result, ICWA's promise to benefit the welfare of American Indian and Alaska Native children has benefitted many thousands of these children, enabling them to mature into functioning and contributing citizens of their tribes and of the Nation.

Although the achievements of the ICWA are many and noteworthy, much remains to be done. Full and effective implementation of the ICWA has not occurred either because of deliberate resistance, outright obstruction, ignorance of or inattentiveness to ICWA's requirements, or just misunderstanding the relationship between the ICWA and the requirements of other federal child welfare laws. To address and remedy ICWA implementation problems of most concern to tribes, I introduced H.R. 2750 on July 15, 2003. This measure—

Clarifies that the ICWA applies to all American Indian and Alaska Native children involved in "child custody proceedings" (as defined in the ICWA) and defines the minimum efforts that must be undertaken to prevent the breakup of an American Indian or Alaska Native child's family through involuntary out-of-home placement.

Requires detailed notice to American Indian and Alaska Native tribes in all voluntary child custody proceedings, to parents in voluntary adoption proceedings, and to parents and tribes in all involuntary proceedings.

Clarifies the right of American Indian and Alaska Native tribes to intervene in all voluntary state court custody proceedings, provided that the tribe files a notice of intent to intervene or a written objection within 45 days of receiving notice of a voluntary termination of parental rights or within 100 days of receiving notice of a particular adoptive placement, and certifies that a child is a member, eligible for membership, or is the child of a member.

Requires notice to extended family members and recognizes their right to intervene in state child custody proceedings.

Requires attorneys, public and private agencies to provide detailed information to American Indian and Alaska Native parents of their rights under ICWA.

Limits parents' rights to withdraw consent to an adoption to 6 months after relinquishment of the child or 30 days after the filing of an adoption petition, whichever is later.

Clarifies tribal jurisdiction in Alaska.

Facilitates the ability of tribes without reservations, including tribes in Alaska and Oklahoma or with disestablished reservations, to assume jurisdiction over child custody proceedings.

Narrows the grounds upon which state courts can refuse to transfer cases to tribal courts.

Clarifies tribal court authority over children transferred to tribal court jurisdiction.

Defines the circumstances under which state ICWA violations may be reviewed by federal courts and provides for federal review of state ICWA compliance.

Provides for criminal sanctions for anyone who assists a person to lie about their American Indian and Alaska Native ancestry for the purpose of avoiding application of the ICWA.

Allows state courts to enter enforceable orders providing for visitation or contact between tribes, natural parents, extended family and an adopted child.

Extends ICWA (in some cases) to cover children of state recognized and Canadian Indian tribes, and children who reside or are domiciled on a reservation and are the child of a member, but who are not eligible for tribal membership.

Makes it easier to American Indian and Alaska Native adoptees to gain access to their birth records.

Establishes that foster and adoptive homes licensed or approved by American Indian and Alaska Native tribes in compliance with the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act shall satisfy the requirements for foster and adoptive home licensing under any other federal law.

Clarifies that the terms of tribal-state agreements regarding the care and custody of and jurisdiction over American Indian and Alaska Native children shall be controlling even when another federal law may have different requirements.

On this 25th anniversary of the ICWA, I urge my colleagues to take another historic step and enact H.R. 2750. Enactment would assure that on ICWA's 50th anniversary, American Indian and Alaska Native families are strong, their children are healthy and their communities are thriving. For the betterment of our Nation and all of its people, our legacy should be no less.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 602 and 603, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

CONGRATULATING ROHAN SINGH AS STUDENT ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a special young man from my district, Mr. Rohan Singh.

It is my pleasure to announce that Rohan has been named Junior Achievement's 2003 Student Entrepreneur of the Year.

Last year, Rohan used just \$60 to establish FuzzelFish.com, which sells software products over the internet. Today, Rohan has a thriving small business and I just want to take this opportunity to congratulate him and wish him luck with his business and his studies.

I recently had the chance to meet Rohan in my Washington, DC office. Let me tell you, he is an intelligent and upstanding young man who, I'm sure, will have a very bright and productive future.

I also rise today to say that I am encouraged to see that the entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well among teens in the United States. According to a recent poll by Junior Achievement and Harris Interactive, more teens believe that "owning your own business" provides greater job security than "working for a company." This, Mr. Speaker, is good news for the future of this great nation.

In closing, I want to say again how proud I am of Rohan Singh and believe that his story should be an example to all young people that everyone can and should play a part in the American Dream.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE YVONNE SCARLETT-GOLDEN ON HER ELECTION AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DAYTONA BEACH

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege and pleasure to rise today to congratulate The Honorable Yvonne Scarlett-Golden, a dear personal and family friend, a mentor, and the newly elected Mayor of the City of Daytona Beach.

Yesterday, November 4, 2003, Commissioner Scarlett-Golden became Daytona Beach's first black mayor and only the second woman in history to hold that position.

Her elevation to the office of Mayor is a natural next step for a native of Daytona Beach who has devoted her entire life to public service. Commissioner Scarlett-Golden wants to build on Daytona Beach's existing assets: sun and fun and families. She is just the person to do it, for her energy and hard work are legendary.

Yvonne Scarlett-Golden is an educator and a community servant. She received her bachelor's degree and an Honorary Doctor of Law from Bethune-Cookman College, and earned her master's degree from Boston University. Before running for Mayor, she was a school administrator for twenty-five years and served

as a city commissioner from the west side of Daytona Beach for seven years.

Experienced, fair, knowledgeable and firmly committed to public service, Yvonne Scarlett-Golden's priority is to unite the City and improve the quality of life for every citizen, return fiscal responsibility to government, focus on economic development and establish strong public and private partnerships for City programs.

Commissioner Scarlett-Golden has been honored as a role model to African Americans and women all over the nation. I know that all my colleagues join with me in congratulating her today and wishing her every success in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BROWN TREE SNAKE CONTROL AND ERADICATION ACT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, roughly a half-century ago my home island of Guam was invaded by an unwelcome alien pest. Believed to have arrived on Guam as a passive stow-away in a military cargo ship shortly after World War II, the brown tree snake has kept our island's native wild life under siege ever since and has emerged to become the single greatest threat to Guam's natural environment.

Today, I am introducing legislation along with my colleagues from Hawaii, Mr. CASE and Mr. ABERCROMBIE, to combat the brown tree snake by increasing authorized funding levels for research, control and prevention of the spread of this species with the ultimate goal of eradication in Guam. In doing so, the legislation aims to improve the coordination among Federal agencies and other institutions in dealing with the problems brought about by the brown tree snake.

The Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990, which established a Federal program to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic nuisance species, included an authorization for programmatic efforts to combat the brown tree snake as well. Since then the Federal Government has gradually increased efforts to prevent the brown tree snake from departing Guam and to reduce the population of the brown tree snake in certain targeted areas in Guam. Our legislation would enhance these efforts by improving the coordination and consistency of actions undertaken by Federal agencies and by providing an adequate authorized funding schedule to achieve the goal of eradication. Our legislation clarifies the responsibility for funding brown tree snake programs and places that responsibility in the appropriate Federal agencies. In the past the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has had to contribute funds meant for territorial technical assistance to the brown tree snake program in order to make up for shortfalls in other Federal agencies' budgets. While we appreciate the Office of Insular Affairs' efforts in the past, it is preferable to secure funding from those with direct responsibility and expertise for these issues.

Since 1993, Congress has attempted to address the brown tree snake problem, but I

would contend, by indirect and inconsistent means. Currently, Federal funding to fight the brown tree snake has remained stagnant over the past decade and has been realized, in addition to the contributions from the Office of Insular Affairs, through the efforts of a Senate Appropriations \$1 million annual earmark in the Department of Defense Operations and Maintenance account for the Defense Health Services. These funds have been the basis for the progress made to date, but these appropriations funds are not specifically authorized, which has caused difficulty in securing the appropriation each year. In addition, as an earmark, these efforts have been misinterpreted by interest groups opposed to such earmarks and has at times been characterized as "pork" spending.

If we do not adequately address these funding shortfalls, significant brown tree snake containment efforts may fail resulting in the spread of a very aggressive invasive species to other areas of the United States. The brown tree snake has caused severe environmental damage on Guam, and our experience has been that once introduced, this species is extremely difficult to eradicate. The environmental cost in protecting other species in other areas that may become endangered by this alien predator is enormous, thus making the prevention of the spread of the brown tree snake an economic issue. This is a clear example of a situation where an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

This bill is also notable for its emphasis on control and eradication. Guam has had the unfortunate experience of having the brown tree snake threaten the extinction of our own indigenous species of birds.

I look forward to moving this bill through the legislative process. I thank my colleagues from Hawaii, Mr. CASE and Mr. ABERCROMBIE, for their diligent work in crafting this legislation with me. I also wish to commend stakeholders in Guam and Hawaii, including the Government of Guam's Department of Agriculture, for their valuable input. I urge my colleagues to support the Brown Tree Snake Control and Eradication Act.

CONTROL AND ERADICATION ACT
OF 2003

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join with my colleague from Guam, Congresswoman MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO, and Congressman NEIL ABERCROMBIE from Hawaii, to introduce the Brown Tree Snake Control and Eradication Act of 2003.

This legislation proposes a long-overdue comprehensive approach, through the Departments of Interior and Agriculture, to eradicate the brown tree snake in Guam and to prevent its introduction to affected jurisdictions in the Pacific, including my home state of Hawaii.

The devastating ecological, economic, and human health impacts of the brown tree snake have been long known among the affected jurisdictions in the Pacific and the federal, state, and territorial agencies charged with implementing brown tree snake preventative control programs.

However, it is clear that unless we address this challenge with a long-term, coordinated, and comprehensive approach, Guam will continue to struggle with the adverse impacts of the brown tree snake, and we in Hawaii will increasingly risk the introduction of the snake into our fragile environment. A total of eight brown tree snakes have been found live or dead in Hawaii since the mid-1980s. All have been associated with the movement of civilian and military vehicles or cargo from Guam.

As background, the brown tree snake was accidentally introduced into Guam in the late 1940s and 1950s, likely via U.S. military cargo, from an area in the Pacific where the snakes are native. Unfortunately, because Guam had no natural predator but abundant prey, the brown tree snake population spread throughout the island.

Because the brown tree snake's preferred prey is birds, it is directly responsible for the extinction of 9 of 13 native forest birds and 3 of 12 native lizards on Guam. Economically, the snakes have caused more than 1600 power outages over a 20-year period in Guam, costing the island \$4.5 million per year without considering their impact on transformers, and damages inside electrical substations. The disruptions affect all aspects of everyday life in homes and work, as well as for the government and the business community.

In Hawaii, the brown tree snake represents one of the greatest terrestrial ecological threats due to its potential impact on our endangered bird species, which are found nowhere else on earth. As a result of Hawaii's geographical isolation and lush environment, there were more than 140 endemic bird species in the islands prior to human contact. Today, among the remaining 71 endemic forms, 30 are federally listed as endangered, and fifteen of these are on the brink of extinction. Any negative impact on our native bird species in Hawaii will inevitably impact our native flora as well. Hawaii has the highest known number of endemic terrestrial plants of any major island group.

Economically, a University of Hawaii study estimates that the introduction of the brown tree snake to Hawaii will cause between \$28 million and \$450 million annually in electrical power outages. This does not include the potential devastation to our agriculture industry. In Guam, the brown tree snake has contributed to the decline in production of the island's agriculture industry, particularly the commercial poultry industry, because the snakes eat eggs and chicks. The snake has also impacted the growing of fruits and vegetables because insects that are no longer naturally controlled by birds and lizards inflict increased damage on crops.

To address the brown tree snake problem, a Brown Tree Snake Control Committee was established subsequent to provisions in the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990. A multi-agency Memorandum of Agreement on Brown Tree Snake Control was also signed in 1992 and renewed in 1999. However, it expires in March 2004.

The Brown Tree Snake Control and Eradication Act of 2003 will statutorily authorize the Brown Tree Snake Control and Eradication Committee to ensure the ongoing activities of federal agencies, enhance the effectiveness of the present Committee, provide the necessary

resources from agencies actually conducting the work, and strengthen the coordination between federal and regional stakeholders in Hawaii and the Pacific in a more systemic fashion.

Among the authorized activities is the expansion of science-based eradication and control programs in Guam; the expansion of inter-agency and intergovernmental rapid response teams in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Hawaii; the expansion of science-based efforts to protect and restore native wildlife in Guam or elsewhere damaged by the brown tree snake; continuation and expansion of sustained research funding from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, and National Wildlife Research Center; and the expansion of long-term research into chemical and biological control techniques that could lead to large-scale reduction of brown tree snake populations in Guam.

This legislation is a product of collaboration between my office, the offices of Congresswoman BORDALLO and Congressman ABERCROMBIE, the Nature Conservancy in Hawaii, and other key federal, state, and territorial stakeholders in the region.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this vital issue.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during rollcall votes 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, and 591. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 569 and 570. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 571, 572, 573, and 591.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, due to a scheduling conflict, I was unable to be in Washington during rollcall votes 616–619. Had I been here I would have voted "no" for rollcall vote 616, "aye" for rollcall vote 617 and "no" for rollcall votes 618–619.

TRIBUTE TO SAGINAW VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY ON THE OC-
CASION OF ITS FORTIETH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the mission and accomplishments of Saginaw Valley State University in Saginaw County, Michigan as it celebrates forty years of educating students for a modern world.

I can attest to the quality of the learning experience that Saginaw Valley State provides its students, because I received a bachelor's degree from SVSU in criminal justice in 1977 while I was a Michigan State Trooper. As a returning adult student who also worked full time as a Trooper, it was particularly important to me to have accomplished professors and to be enrolled in classes that were academically challenging but also geared to practical accomplishment in the real world.

SVSU was chartered as a private college on November 13, 1963. In 1965 it was made part of Michigan's system of state supported colleges. The first class of ten students graduated in 1966.

That small but dedicated graduating class led the way for student enrollment that had grown to more than 8,000 students by the end of the millennium. International students by the hundreds now walk the campus.

SVSU is known for its programs in teacher education, an engineering program that is well-recognized in the area's automotive serving industries, programs in nursing and allied health sciences, business administration and the humanities, to name just some of the university's successful curriculum efforts.

In the past ten years, the university campus has grown by leaps and bounds, adding Founders Hall and the West Complex with its Performing Arts Center, Rhea Miller Recital Hall, Groening Commons, new classrooms and faculty offices, as well as conference facilities. Curtiss Hall, the new Herbert Dow Doan Science Building and the Student Center and Fitness Center were all completed. A Regional Education Center, the Zahnaw Library addition, additions to the Marshal M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum and to student housing also were dedicated in 2003.

It would be understandable if the faculty, staff, students, alumni and supporters of Saginaw Valley State University took a moment to rest on their laurels, but my understanding is that all of the new facilities and programs are instead powerful motivation for the SVSU learning community to continue to grow and to seek excellence in all its endeavors.

I heartily congratulate everyone involved in the dramatic success of Saginaw Valley State University. As an alumnus of SVSU, I take personal pride and pleasure in its forty years of achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in offering congratulations to Saginaw Valley State University on its fortieth anniversary.

MOROCCAN KING COMMENDED FOR HIS CALL FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the following column which ran in the Washington Post last month. Women's rights are a critical component of any nation's development, and I commend Morocco's King Mohammed VI for his call to improve the status of women in his nation.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 16, 2003]

A KING'S APPEAL

(By Jim Hoagland)

Western democracies won the Cold War by shaking open closed societies and exposing their failures and crimes to citizens who then refused to go on living that way. The great political challenge of today is to induce similar change in Arab nations and other Islamic countries that do not respect the rights and dignity of their own citizens.

Think of it as collateral repair: The coming wave of epochal change must also be driven by internal forces, with restrained but committed support from abroad. The ultimate goal is reform within Islam conceived and carried out by Muslim leaders, scholars and civic groups, substantively welcomed by the West.

And that reform must begin with the role and rights of women in the Islamic world. A question posed last week in as important a speech as I have read recently makes that unblinkingly clear:

"How can society achieve progress while women, who represent half the nation, see their rights violated and suffer as a result of injustice, violence and marginalization, notwithstanding the dignity and justice granted them by our glorious religion?"

The irrefutable logic about the high cost of institutionalized gender discrimination was voiced by Morocco's King Mohammed VI last Friday at the opening of Parliament in Rabat. He then outlined far-reaching changes in family and divorce laws for the kingdom that would effectively lessen the intrusive reach of religious authorities into gender issues.

I am aware that speeches are given in the Arab world, as well as in Washington, to postpone or avoid the actions they describe. And in fairness to the globe's 1.2 billion Muslims, it has to be noted that all religions have been used at some point as a tool of control by unscrupulous political and religious leaders, and misogynists of all stripes—as Islam is used today far too often.

But Mohammed VI outlined highly specific remedies and committed both his religious and political authority to getting them enacted. And he repeatedly invoked the language of the Koran to denounce the unfairness of polygamy, marriage contracts, guardianships and divorce laws as they are practiced in his country and by implication elsewhere in the Muslim world.

As befits a 40-year-old monarch whose followers call him "the Commander of the Faithful" and who claims descent from the prophet Muhammad, the king argued that solutions can and should be found in Islam. But his words also implicitly acknowledged that Islam has been deformed into an instrument of repression in much of the Arab world and elsewhere.

Consider this: Two-thirds of all illiterate Arab adults are women, who are kept out of schools by custom, lack of resources and, in many places, by determined opposition from religious authorities. The Moroccan king took aim at a sickness that deprives many Islamic societies of the talents and productive labor of half their populations.

Morocco perches on the North African Atlantic shoulder of the Arab world. The immediate, direct consequences of Mohammed VI's words in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and elsewhere may be slight. (They went largely unreported in the United States as well.) But the king's embrace of this cause represents both catalyst and reflection of broader change that is rapidly bearing down on the region.

It is part generational change as aging autocrats give way to younger leaders. Change is also being stirred by the deposing

of a uniquely evil regime in Iraq, a thunder-clap that is reverberating throughout the region, and by the pressures of the shadow war being fought between global terrorists and the U.S.-led coalition.

Mohammed VI's speech makes clear that he was not intimidated by the bombings in his country last May carried out by Islamic fundamentalists tied to al Qaeda. Nor does he seem cowed by the reactionary religious establishments that have contributed so much to the backwardness and turmoil now evident in Islamic nations.

An effective reform movement is straining to be born. In the same week the Moroccan king spoke, the Nobel Committee awarded the 2003 peace prize to Shirin Ebadi, an Iranian lawyer who leads the fight in her country for women's rights and democracy—two causes that cannot be separated in the Islamic world. This is a good example of collateral repair: restrained but focused Western encouragement of reform.

Mohammed VI provides a standard to which Arabs, Iranians, Pakistanis and others can and should be held. They are not being asked to live up to Western standards by improving the opportunities and lives of "their" women. This is a descendant of the prophet, not Gloria Steinem, who is telling them that they must change or fall ever deeper into self-destructive decline.

VETERANS DAY 2003 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support of America's 25 million living veterans. Our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines are surely the best of the best.

More than 48 million heroic men and women have served in our military since the start of the Republic. Veterans have served this great Nation honorably during times of peace, and of war. It is appropriate that we set aside one special day a year to honor their service. However, we must not reserve this day for remembrance and then forget our veterans the other 364 days a year. Daily, we owe veterans our heartfelt gratitude and respect.

As the Congresswoman representing Florida's third district, I am proud of the patriotism and loyalty that the people of Florida have shown to this Nation—it inspires me daily as a senior member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. There are nearly two million veterans in the state of Florida, and I thank them each for answering the call to service.

At this time, more than any other, we should stop and pay homage to America's veterans. Today's servicemember is tomorrow's veteran. Right now, there are 130,000 Americans serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. On Thursday, the Administration announced a plan that would send 128,000 fresh troops to Iraq early next year. This plan calls-up 43,000 National Guard and Reserve troops for one-year tours. We need to promise these servicemembers that they will not be forgotten when they return home.

Congress needs to take action and fully fund concurrent receipt for the 560,000 eligible veterans. It is the right thing to do. We must promise this generation of career service

members that they will be treated on par with other federal employees in the event that they become disabled. A recent study, undertaken by the United States House of Representatives Committee on Government Reform, shows that the Disabled Veterans Tax affects approximately 57,300, or one in three, veterans in Florida. 2,738 veterans are affected by this tax in the third district of Florida. Statewide, Florida's veterans lose \$300 million in benefits annually to the Disabled Veterans Tax. In Florida's third district, veterans cumulatively lose \$13,923,588 in benefits a year—with an average loss of \$5,085 per veteran annually.

The Bush Administration argues that there is a cost barrier to fully funding concurrent receipt. This argument shows where the Administration's priorities are misplaced. If we can come up with an \$87.5 billion supplemental appropriation for the war in Iraq, then we can surely find the money to bring our Nation's military retirees on par with the rest of federal employees. We cannot say that we have enough money to fight wars, but not enough to compensate the servicemembers injured in them.

This year's budget process shows why we need mandatory funding for VA health care. The funding system for veterans' health care is seriously flawed. Instead of being based on need or costs like other federal health programs it is funded based on residual funding for discretionary programs. Veterans are paying for this defective funding system with curtailment in enrollment in the VA health care system, newly proposed copayments and enrollment fees, and increased waiting times. VA does well with the funding it receives, but with a stable and reliable funding stream, it could provide better access to high-quality care for our veterans.

It appears that the House will agree to the Senate's provision that will provide a \$1.3 billion increase above the Administration's budget request. However, it will still fall short of the 2004 funding level that was promised in the budget resolution. Veterans should not have to come begging at our doors for adequate funding of the VA health care system.

Today, and everyday, we should honor those who have worn this Nation's uniform. I thank them and will continue to work to fulfill Abraham Lincoln's pledge, "to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

HONORING WOMEN AIRFORCE
SERVICE PILOTS

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, As Veterans' day approaches, I want to take the time to recognize the patriotism and sacrifice of a special group of women. I rise today to honor and recognize servicewomen who served as Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) during the Second World War.

The generation that defeated the Nazis has correctly been referred to as the "Greatest Generation." But for many years, the contributions of this select group of young women pilots were overlooked.

As the first women in history trained to fly American military aircraft, the WASP shattered traditional conceptions about women's roles and became pioneers, heroes, and role models for generations of women to come.

They compiled an admirable record, performing essential services that freed males for combat-related service overseas, but their accomplishments did not come without a cost. Thirty-eight members of the WASP made the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives in the course of their service.

Although these women had answered the call to duty at America's time of greatest need, when the WASP were disbanded on December 20, 1944, they received no GI benefits or military honors.

America tried to forget them, leaving them with only their personal satisfaction that they had done their duty.

Congress finally corrected this wrong in 1977 when it formally recognized the service of members of the WASP as active military service, making them eligible for veterans benefits.

As we watch women serving bravely in the War Against Terror, it is safe to say that the future of women in the military seems assured. But it is important to remember that this was not always the case.

It is not an exaggeration that we owe a big part of the freedom we enjoy today to these women pilots. Their love of country and love of flying is something for which we will always be grateful.

At this time I would like to thank the thirty-eight who gave their lives. Let us remember Jane Champlin, Susan Clark, Margie L. Davis, Katherine Dussaq, Marjorie D. Edwards, Elizabeth Erickson, Cornelia Fort, Frances Grimes, Mary Hartson, Mary H. Howson, Edith Keene, Kathryn B. Lawrence, Hazel Ying Lee, Paula Loop, Alice Lovejoy, Lea Ola McDonald, Peggy Martin, Marie N. Michell, Virginia Moffatt, Beverly Moses, Dorothy Nichols, Jeanne L. Norbeck, Margaret Oldenburg, Mabel Rawlinson, Gleanna Roberts, Betty Scott, Margaret J. Seip, Helen J. Severson, Marie Sharon, Evelyn Sharp, Betty P. Stine, Marion Toevs, Gertrude Tompkins, Mary Trebing, Bonnie Jean Welz, Betty T. Wood, and Mary L. Webster.

In these dangerous times, their courage is an inspiration for all Americans. I encourage everyone to learn more about the history of the service of these courageous women.

CONFERENCE REPORT H.R. 2691,
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPRO-
PRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I regrettably come to the floor in opposition to the Interior conference report that my friend from North Carolina and the Chairman of the Subcommittee, Mr. TAYLOR, worked so hard in putting together. There are many things in this conference report for which I'm very grateful. I'm grateful to the Chairman for working with me to give the Bureau of Indian Affairs the au-

thority to fund the first phase of the recommendations from the Chiloquin dam study, a critical effort in the Klamath Basin of southern Oregon to improve endangered sucker fish habitat and lighten the burden on agriculture. I also want to extend my sincere appreciation to the Chairman for funding PILT at \$227,500,000—one of its highest levels ever. While it is not the fully authorized level of \$360 million that I have been a staunch advocate for, it's much better than it has been in the past and the good Chairman and his top-notch staff are to thank for this. Finally, I want to commend the Chairman for his work in getting \$400 million included in the conference report to replenish the exhausted fire suppression accounts of the BLM and Forest Service, and I commend him for including almost \$2.5 billion to implement the National fire plan next year. These are significant accomplishments and I have enthusiastically supported them.

However, even with the inclusion of all these excellent provisions, I reluctantly must vote against the conference report because of the language included that undermines the efforts of my friend from California, the Chairman of the Resources Committee, to find a legislative solution to the complicated problem of tribal trust accounting. The language added to the conference report would interrupt the Department of the Interior's conduct of its historical accounting of individual Indian trust fund accounts, which is mandated by federal court order in *Cobell v. Norton*. The language would suspend any such accounting until either December 31, 2004 or until Congress revised the American Indian Trust Management Reform Act to limit this forensic accounting activity. The added language not only interferes with a court-required accounting for hundreds of thousands of Native Americans, but also seeks to force a potentially hasty decision on an exceptionally complex issue and overlooks an agreement reached between Chairman POMBO and Chairman TAYLOR during House floor consideration of this bill in July. That agreement stated that settlement of the *Cobell* matter would be left to Chairman POMBO's Resources Committee to resolve, the proper authorizing committee venue. Unfortunately, the conference report language does not comport with that agreement, and so I will reluctantly vote against this bill in its current form. I am hopeful that this provision can successfully be resolved in the correct legislative forum, and that the many other outstanding provisions of the Interior Appropriations bill developed under the fine leadership of Chairman TAYLOR remain intact.

TRIBUTE TO THE COLORADO
TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the exceptional endeavors and notable undertakings of an extraordinary professional membership organization in the State of Colorado. It is both fitting and proper that we recognize this outstanding association for its leadership in government and the legal community and for its enduring service to the people of our state. It is to commend this distinguished organization that I rise to honor the

Colorado Trial Lawyers Association on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

The Colorado Trial Lawyers Association (CTLA) has been on the front lines of progress since its inception and has proven to be a powerful force in transforming the legal landscape of our state. CTLA's statement of purpose merits mention. "The Colorado Trial Lawyers Association is comprised of Colorado trial lawyers who are committed to the protection and advancement of individuals rights and to the advancement of trial advocacy skills, high ethical standards and professionalism in the ongoing effort to preserve and improve the American system of jurisprudence." Within this unequivocal statement lies the touchstone that has guided CTLA's work with government and its immeasurable contribution to the legal profession in Colorado.

For the last half-century, CTLA and its members have been resolute in their commit-

ment to protecting the health, safety and welfare of Colorado consumers. It has been active in educating the public concerning the efficacy of individual rights and the pivotal role of the trial lawyer in protecting those rights. CTLA has recognized, and continues to recognize, that it has a public trust of considerable magnitude. Through its legislative advocacy, CTLA has provided vital information and invaluable counsel to Members of the Colorado General Assembly and the United States Congress on issues that protect consumers and impact our civil justice system. Due in no small part to CTLA's advocacy, many detrimental legislative proposals have been defeated, particularly those that would have prevented or hindered access to the courts for redress of grievances.

Trial advocacy is facing considerable change, technological and otherwise. CTLA has given the legal profession inestimable

service through its outstanding legal education programs by providing state-of-the-art instruction concerning law, ethics and professional conduct for members and non-members alike. CTLA has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to those in need. Countless members have provided pro-bono legal aid, including free legal assistance to the victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11th through the Trial Lawyers Care Program. My membership in CTLA has had a profound impact on my career in the practice of law and public service.

Please join me in commending the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary. It is leadership, advocacy and commitment of the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association that continually enhances our lives and builds a better future for all Americans.