

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO HELEN PACE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a hardworking woman from my district. Helen Pace has recently retired from Berthod Motors in Glenwood Springs, Colorado after 38 years of service. I join with my colleagues here today in recognizing Helen's dedication and continuous service before this body of Congress.

Helen first started working for Berthod Motors back on October 15, 1965. Back then, Louie and Aline Berthod were the owners of this Glenwood Springs automotive landmark, which was then located in the Tamarack Building on the corner of 10th and Grand Avenue.

Along with her husband Cecil, Helen has played a significant role in establishing the Berthod Motors tradition. Cecil began employment with Berthod in the equipment division back in 1957 and went to work alongside his wife Helen from 1965 until his own retirement in 1994. Helen's career at Berthod began as a warranty clerk, eventually taking over accounts receivable and becoming office manager. Together, Cecil and Helen Pace devoted nearly 75 years of continuous service and commitment to the customers of Berthod Motors. In retirement, Helen plans to make good use of her new Buick Century, already planning a road trip with her husband in the car that she received as a retirement gift.

Mr. Speaker, it is increasingly rare these days that one person would spend close to 40 years devoted to a job they loved. Helen Pace has committed the last 38 years of her life serving the customers of Berthod Motors, a commitment that should not go unrecognized. I join with my colleagues here today in wishing Helen and her husband Cecil joy in their well-deserved retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OBERLIN FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this year, the Oberlin, Ohio, Fire Department celebrates its 150th anniversary. Established in 1853, today the department boasts a staff of 30, state-of-the-art equipment, safety and educational programming, and professional recognition. The community has celebrated the sesquicentennial with a parade, summertime events, a traditional firefighter competition featuring an old-fashioned bucket brigade, hose race, and water ball contest, displays and an open house, and culminating in a special dinner this fall.

The mission of the Oberlin Fire Department is "To proudly protect lives and property by providing prompt, skillful, cost-effective protection and life safety services." It is routinely recognized for successfully meeting this mission with the prestigious yearly Life Safety Achievement Award. It serves the 10,000 people of Oberlin and New Russia Township in northeast Ohio with emergency responses, college fire safety courses, school and community educational services, and fire prevention efforts.

For a century and a half, ordinary men and women have conducted themselves with extraordinary bravery as they skillfully guarded the safety of their fellow citizens in Oberlin. I am proud and humbled to represent these fine people, and join with the community in a resounding "thank you!"

TRIBUTE TO OPEN SPACE PROTECTION IN GRAND COUNTY, CO

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Middle Park Land Trust and the Denver Water Department for their efforts in creating an outstanding conservation easement for Colorado's citizens in Grand County, Colorado.

Open space in Grand County and the rest of our state is coming under increasing pressure because of the rapid expansion of Colorado's population. In response, Grand County's elected officials and citizens partnered together to begin a 7-year odyssey to protect and preserve the open ranges, meadows and ridges in the Fraser Valley. Through a series of deed restrictions, conservation easements and open space development, more than 20,000 acres of land are now under some form of protection from development in Grand County.

The Denver Water Department was encouraged to "donate" properties they owned because of the efforts of Grand County citizens to raise approximately \$6,000 in funds to help cover some of the costs related to monitoring lands in perpetuity and to provide funds to pay legal fees in case the easement is questioned in court.

The Colorado General Assembly partnered in this historic easement by passing legislation that changed tax deductions to tax credits and increasing the value of allowable easements from \$100,000 to \$260,000, thus encouraging the development of multiple land trusts across the state.

Road and trail easements are now being developed to connect the towns of Fraser and Winter Park while protecting connecting routes and surrounding lands. Once again, citizens in the county, Fraser's local library and county officials have been encouraged in their efforts by the historic conservation easement crafted by Grand County citizens.

The Middle Park Land Trust has had its most successful and productive year. I applaud their innovative conservation efforts and encourage more partnerships like this, not only in Colorado's pristine mountain counties, but throughout the country as we seek to preserve our Nation's beautiful lands for now and for generations to come. Present and future generations will be thankful for the foresight in preserving some of the landscapes such as these in Grand County that inspire, enhance wildlife and recreational opportunities.

I have attached a copy of a local newspaper story about this important effort.

[From the Winter Park Manifest Oct. 29, 2003]

MEADOWS ARE OPEN FOREVER

(By Harry Williamson)

As you take your drive into the Fraser Valley this week, check out the meadows on the west side of Highway 40 just south of Tabernash.

Ignoring a couple of dilapidated, ancient cabins way back in the trees, there's not a spec of building to be seen. It's just horses and the occasional coyote moving among the sagebrush.

And that's the sight you're going to see forever—never a house, never businesses bordering the highway—thanks to a deal finalized by the county, the Middle Park Land Trust and the Denver Water Department.

Completing seven years of work, a conservation easement has been signed that protects the 514 acres, part of the old Stadelman Ranch, from any type of development ever taking place.

In addition, the approximately 300 acres on the east side of the highway is also protected by deed restrictions signed by the landowners that prohibits any building in those meadows. The only land that is not removed from possible future building is the approximately 160 acres at the far north end, just before Tabernash, which is owned by the city of Arvada.

And, the approximately 45 acres of meadow in the Hidden River Ranch subdivision, located just north of the meadows on the west side of the highway is also removed from development by a deed restriction.

So what you see today in those meadows, is pretty much what you're always going to get.

"In all of our surveys concerning what land local residents wanted to see protected, these meadows were always very high on the list," said Cindy Southway, Land Trust director.

The easement on the west side meadows was signed between Denver Water and the county, which was assisted by the Land Trust in developing the agreement.

Denver Water also owns the slightly more than 900 acres atop the ridge further west of the meadows, heavily-treed land that the agency likely plans to sell for development.

Commissioner James Newberry said that under the agreement a developer would be able to use the meadows as a portion of the open space required to develop the remainder of the land under the county's Rural Land Use Process, which requires at least 66 percent open space. This type of land development was developed by the county in 1999 as a way to maintain the rural character of the county.

• 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.

County officials said that since the land atop the ridge is not included in an urban growth area, as designated by the county's master plan, the only way it can be developed is through the rural land process.

Southway said that if and when the land is sold for development, it is hoped that a new conservation easement could be developed between the new owner and the Land Trust.

"We're in the business of holding these easement, and we could work with that developer to tighten it (the easement) up to get them tax benefits," she said.

The effort to get the meadows under easement was started approximately seven years ago by the Land Trust, then called the Grand County Land Conservancy. The idea, however, floundered over the years for various reasons, including Denver Water's hesitance to make what the Land Trust referred to as a "donation" to cover some of the cost of "monitoring the land for perpetuity. Southway added that funds are also needed to be held in reserve to pay legal fees in case the easement is ever questioned in court.

She said that when a landowner balks at making a donation, then the Land Trust does fundraisers to obtain the funds, with approximately \$6,000 raised for the Denver Water project.

Newberry said that the county, involved in other discussions with Denver Water, suggested a few months ago that negotiations on the easement possibility be resumed. He said that due to state legislation passed last year counties are now able to hold non-development easements.

"Once Denver Water started talking about it, we got this thing done in record time, considering there was a government entity on the two ends of the deal," Newberry said.

He added that the negotiations, once restarted, took just under three months.

Newberry said another agreement has been finalized where Denver Water has donated an easement of an existing old farm road that extends along the bottom of the ridge. He said the county's plan is to make the roadway part of the Fraser Valley Parkway, which has been a concept for the last 20 years as an alternative route to Highway 40. Officials said, once developed, the roadbed would be a 60 feet wide collector road consisting of two lanes.

He said the county has already acquired the necessary right-of-way for the parkway from County Road 522, through two developments near Tabernash and on through, via the Denver Water road, to County Road 50.

Newberry said the county is currently working with the town of Fraser, the library and the people who own the land between County Roads 50 and 73 to identify and purchase a road easement. Once this route, to also include a trail easement, is determined the road would connect with the existing parkway. Plans are for the parkway to then run through a still-to-be-determined route through the Rendezvous subdivision and on through the town of Winter Park.

Southway said 2003 has been a very successful year for the Middle Park Land Trust, which was started in 1995. She said that, during the year, approximately 1,400 acres have either been put under easement or that an agreement is being finalized. She added that its been her agency's most productive year, due in large measure to legislation passed last year that gives Colorado tax credits for land put under a conservation easement.

She explained that the state before was like the federal government where a tax deduction was given.

"The State of Colorado changed to a tax credit, and increased the maximum value of the easement allowable for the credit from \$100,000 to \$260,000. These tax credits are dollar for dollar, and they're a commodity, they

can be sold. This makes it much more attractive for landowners, who retain ownership and use of the land. They just can't develop it," she said.

"The exciting thing is that it has been a great year for land trusts all across Colorado," she added.

Southway said that there are currently approximately 20,000 acres of land now under some form of non-development easement in Grand County.

TRIBUTE TO JANET
 WHITCHURCH—RECIPIENT OF
 THE 2003 ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE
 BARAT AWARD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Janet Whitchurch, a distinguished Californian, as she receives the 2003 St. Madeleine Sophie Barat Award. This award, named for the foundress of the Society of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, honors individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to Sacred Heart Schools, Atherton, over a significant period of time. Founded in 1897, Sacred Heart Schools includes St. Joseph's School of the Sacred Heart and Sacred Heart Preparatory.

Janet Whitchurch grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art and a Master of Arts in Painting from Stanford University. She began her teaching career at Sacred Heart Preparatory in 1969 and taught Studio Art, Art History, Freshman History and served as Department Chair. Mrs. Whitchurch left Sacred Heart Preparatory in 1984 but soon realized that she had left her heart at the School. She converted to Catholicism and returned to Sacred Heart in 1995 to continue teaching and cultivating students as Chair of the Fine Arts Department.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to honor Janet Whitchurch's work, her values, and her commitment to Sacred Heart Schools and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her as she receives the 2003 St. Madeleine Sophie Barat Award for the extraordinary contributions she has made to Sacred Heart Schools.

HONORING CARL AND MIKE
 LOWELL

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor two of South Florida's outstanding citizens, Carl Lowell and his son, Mike Lowell.

Carl Lowell pitched for St. Joseph's University in 1968 and '69 before leaving after his junior year to go to dental school in Puerto Rico. He was named Most Valuable Player of the 1968 team and was an honorable mention on the All-Middle-Atlantic Conference team after going 6-3 with a 2.39 earned run average while striking out 65 batters in 78 2/3 innings. On March 29, 1969, he pitched a no-

hitter against Franklin & Marshall, one of just five no-hitters in school history. His career 3.31 ERA is the fourth-lowest in the school's record books.

Carl, pitching for the Puerto Rican national team, beat Cuba in international competition. Carl is of Cuban and German descent and is a strong believer in freedom and democracy. When Cuban dictator Fidel Castro wanted to meet the team and have his photo taken with the players, Carl stayed on the bus instead.

Today, Carl is a prominent and respected dentist in South Florida.

His son, Mike, is the third baseman for the 2003 World Series Champion Florida Marlins and is one of baseball's best hitters. This year he hit 32 homers with 105 runs-batted-in despite missing the last month of the season with a broken hand. He's a 2002 and 2003 All Star and recently won the 2003 National League Silver Slugger Award which is given to the top offensive players at each position, as voted on by major league baseball managers and coaches.

Mike grew up in Miami where he was a high school baseball star and became the heart of the best Coral Gables High team in decades. He made All Dade First Team and was an All State/All Star in 1992.

Mike was offered a full scholarship by Florida International University (FIU) where he excelled and was an Academic All-American.

In 1995, he was drafted by the New York Yankees and quickly moved up the minor league system. His parents had always stressed the importance of a good education, and after being drafted, with some special help from his mother, Beatriz, Mike returned to FIU. Mike had three grade-by-final-exam courses, and Beatriz went to class and took notes for him while he was in the instructional league. He graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1996 with a degree in Finance.

In 1999, he was traded back home to play for the Florida Marlins. However, less than three weeks later, Mike's plans were put on hold by a startling discovery. While undergoing a regular physical examination, Mike was diagnosed with testicular cancer. The surgery and three weeks of radiation were successful, and today he is cancer-free.

On July 20, 2002, Carl had prostate cancer surgery. Mike spent the whole day at the hospital with him, then hit a game-winning home run against the Expos that night. After the game, he said he had dedicated the home run to his father.

Mike created the Mike Lowell Foundation which hosts the Mike Lowell Foundation Charity Golf Classic. All the proceeds from the event are donated to a wonderful charity in South Florida which provides free medical care to low income cancer patients, "La Liga Contra el Cancer" (The League Against Cancer) and local sports programs.

A patriot like his father, on April 25, 2000, Mike sat out the game to protest the shameful raid on the home of Elian Gonzalez, further earning the respect and admiration of freedom loving people everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, South Florida is truly fortunate to have these distinguished individuals living in our community. They are fine examples of love, perseverance, patriotism and civic leadership.

HONORING COMMISSIONER JIM
CADUE FOR HIS TWENTY YEARS
OF SERVICE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Cadue for his twenty years of service as a Monroe County Commissioner. He was honored on Friday, November 14, 2003 at the Pennsylvania Room of the Camelback Ski Resort in Tannersville Pennsylvania.

My colleagues, Jim is a Monroe County legend. He is the first person in the county's illustrious history to be elected to five consecutive terms. Jim served as Chairman from 1984 to 1991. In his elected career, Jim has compiled a list of accomplishments that any elected official would be proud to have. He constructed a new 311-bed county correctional facility and expanded the county administration offices. He established a new salary plan and job classification system for 700 full-time county employees.

Jim also led Monroe County to develop and implement an award winning comprehensive plan and a \$25 million bond referendum for the purchase of land to be preserved in open space. He also put through an initiative that led to the creation of a corporate office and industrial park totaling 600 acres. Jim also built a new county environmental learning center. He helped save jobs at Tobyhanna Depot and led the effort for a more environmentally friendly solid waste disposal plan. Jim was also the steward for twenty responsible county budgets.

Mr. Speaker, Jim Cadue has spent a lifetime creating opportunity and prosperity for the people of Monroe County and at the same time protecting our natural environment for our children and grandchildren.

Jim is an active leader in national, state and local organizations. He has served as President of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania and Chairman of the National Association of Counties. Locally, he Chairs the Hospice Golf Tournament Committee. Jim is also a member of the Pennsylvania Society, the Lehigh Consistory, American Legion Post #413, the Elks Lodge, and the Pocono Lodge #780 Free and Accepted Masons.

It is no surprise that the honor Jim is receiving Friday is not his first. Jim has received the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania's Outstanding Member Award and the Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

Jim also served our country in the United States Army Military Police, where he attained the rank of Sergeant E-5.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and honor to work with a person who is so committed to building a brighter future in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Jim is a leader who simply gets the job done for his constituents. I ask that my colleagues pay tribute to Monroe County Commissioner Jim Cadue as he receives this well-deserved honor.

TRIBUTE TO RON TAYLOR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor a victim's advocate volunteer who selflessly serves the community of Grand Junction, Colorado. Ron Taylor is a dedicated volunteer who gives of his time to help those in need and I would like to join my colleagues in recognizing his contributions here today.

Ron, a dentist by day, volunteers his nights to aiding victims of crime. Even before an official Colorado victim's program was established, Ron worked as a volunteer with the Chaplain at the Grand Junction Police Department helping crime victims and employees following traumatic incidents. Later, he helped the Mesa County Sheriff's office get their Victims Advocate program off the ground.

Ron is a kind and caring person who is always prepared to help whenever he's needed. He can often be found sacrificing his own comfort and rest to be of service to those who value his generous contributions of time and compassion. In fact, Ron often rises at 3 am to render aid to those in need.

Mr. Speaker, Ron Taylor is a dedicated and compassionate person who devotes most of his free time to assisting those in need. We should all be so lucky to have such an involved person in our community. Ron's enthusiasm and commitment certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR RICHARD W.
COOPER, JR., USAF

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Richard W. Cooper, Jr., a U.S. Air Force Major who conducted missions over Southeast Asia. Major Cooper was the navigator aboard a B-52D Stratofortress bomber out of Westover Air Force Base that participated in Operation Linebacker II, a bombing campaign in the waning days of U.S. involvement in Vietnam. On December 19, 1972, Major Cooper's plane was downed and he was listed as "Missing In Action" for over 30 years. Major Cooper was thirty years old. Recently, Major Cooper's remains were found, identified, and returned to the United States. His remains will be buried at 11 a.m. on December 19th, 2003 in Arlington National Cemetery.

Through his service and commitment, Major Cooper was awarded eleven decorations that include the Distinguished Flying Cross; the Purple Heart; the Air Medal with two silver and two bronze Oak Leaf Clusters; the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award; and, the Combat Readiness Medal.

In recognition of his life, the nation owes a deep debt of gratitude to Major Cooper for his courage, heroism, and exemplary service. Our thoughts and prayers are with Major Cooper's family in Holyoke, Massachusetts as they finally lay him to rest.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TEAMSTERS UNION LOCAL NUMBER 20

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, teamsters Union Local Number 20 celebrates its 100-year anniversary in 2003. For a century, hard-working men and women have come together for the good of the many as they strove to bring their families a better life.

Chartered in 1903, Local 20's first members were icehouse workers. Over the years, four Teamsters Locals came together to form the present-day Local 20, 7,200 members united. Teamsters Local 20 represents members in fifteen counties in Northwest Ohio, including not only truck drivers but nursing home workers, candy makers, and makers of fiberglass. Uniquely, in a truly representational form of operation, stewards from every shop the union represents form the Stewards Council, which sets the policy for the union.

As noted in the union's history, much has changed in the hundred years since Teamsters Local 20 has been chartered: horses were driven rather than trucks, one of two children died in childhood, women were denied the right to vote, there were no child labor laws, no civil rights, no Social Security, no workers compensation, no unemployment compensation, no federal protection for working rights and unions, no workplace safety requirements, no overtime pay or minimum wage, no right to bargain collectively, and no forty hour work week.

The history of our nation's social protection as these basic rights were guaranteed is the history of the Teamsters as well, for their struggles are intertwined with our nation's awakening to social justice. Without Teamster families, and the millions of others in the labor movement, we would yet be in those dark ages of the past. This 100th anniversary is a good time to remind all Americans that we would not enjoy the standard of living we enjoy now without the efforts of united labor. Daniel Webster said, "Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable." Though he meant these words in another context, their meaning rings true for our own time. It is the union men and women who built this nation, who power it now, and whose prosperity must drive it forward.

I am pleased to recognize the 100th anniversary of Teamsters Local 20, and pay special tribute to its members as we commemorate this milestone. Thank you for your contributions to the labor movement, to our communities, our nation, and our future.

FILNER MOTION TO INSTRUCT THE CONFEREES ON THE ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2003

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, without doubt, I am sympathetic to the purpose behind this motion. I am a staunch supporter of smart environmental regulations, and

I oppose the approach that the Bush Administration has taken toward stripping regulations on clean air and water. However, after speaking with people on both sides of this issue, I have concluded that this motion is not the right approach.

In New Mexico, the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, with Governor Bill Richardson as the state's representative, is currently working toward model regulations for management of stormwater pollution in the state. In the meantime, the local oil and gas companies continue to follow general guidelines. I am encouraged by the work being done at the state level to address this issue, as I believe it is important to work with all interests to generate a collaborative solution.

Although I will vote in opposition to this non-binding motion, I continue to be disturbed by the inclusion of the provisions in the Energy Policy Act of 2003. Unfortunately, the way this bill has been crafted echoes the practice of the Administration to put corporations before the environment, before public opinion, and before logic that tells us we need to gear our energy policy toward future needs—not toward the profit of industry. The exclusion of Democrats from the entire conference is reason to believe the bill is not as balanced as its authors claim.

I hope that my many concerns are addressed in the final conference report and I look forward to a vote on the final bill.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL WILLIAMS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life of Paul Williams who recently passed away at the age of 90. Paul was a pillar of the Glenwood Springs, Colorado community, and as his family mourns their loss, I think it is appropriate that we remember his life and celebrate his contributions to our nation today.

Paul moved to Colorado in 1937 and in 1941 he married Catherine Ukele, his wife of 62 years. During World War II, Paul answered his country's call to duty and served honorably as a member of the Signal Corps in Africa and throughout Europe. Following the war, Paul returned to Glenwood Springs where he went to work for the City's Municipal Electric Company. An accomplished electrician, Paul used his talents for the betterment of his community. He was among five men who built and erected a lighted cross on red mountain, and he delighted in maintaining the lights of the Glenwood Springs High School football field.

Paul will be remembered as a valued member of the Glenwood Springs community. He was a 35-year member of the Glenwood Springs Volunteer Fire Department, the American Legion, the Eastern Star and the Masonic Lodge. There is no question that Glenwood Springs is a better place as the result of Paul's tireless service.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Williams' dedication and selflessness certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress. It is my privilege to pay tribute to him for his contributions to the community of Glenwood Springs and our nation. I would like to extend my thoughts and

deepest sympathies to Paul's family and friends during this difficult time of bereavement.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID M. BARTLEY, PRESIDENT OF HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. David M. Bartley, President of Holyoke Community College, as he retires after twenty-eight years of service.

Under President Bartley's tenure the College's enrollment, budget, and number of employees all doubled in size. He was the driving force in the College's transformation from a small, local college into a regional, academic institution with a strong focus on workforce development and continuing education.

When he took office in 1975, President Bartley initiated a long-range plan to create a thriving and growing college. His persistence resulted in numerous accomplishments over the years, beginning with the establishment of the Holyoke Community College Foundation. The Foundation was the first of its kind in Massachusetts and has allowed the College to permanently endow 50 scholarships for needy students.

The College has also created and expanded programs and services for traditional and non-traditional students that have received national recognition. They include Cooperative Education, Women in Transition, a comprehensive Learning Assistance Center, ESL support, Community Service Learning, a mentoring program for engineering technology students, and a successful, federally funded TRIO program.

President Bartley is particularly proud of the fact that Holyoke Community College has done an outstanding job of serving minority students and the underrepresented in our society. Today, 25 percent of the college's graduates are minorities, 70 percent are women, and 30 percent are men, the exact reverse from when he arrived in 1975.

Holyoke Community College has developed a strong and positive image in western Massachusetts and beyond. President Bartley is in great part responsible for this evolution. He has brought consistent and healthy increases in enrollment and private sector support. He has forged winning partnerships with industry and mentored other educational institutions seeking to emulate his college's success.

In assessing and accrediting Holyoke Community College, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges once remarked that they found the College to be "dynamic, resilient and forward thinking". Indeed, the exact same thing can be said for President Bartley and his years of leadership.

I would also like to commend President Bartley on his distinguished career in government. Prior to arriving at Holyoke Community College, he served for twelve years in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. For eight of those years, he held the elected position of Speaker of the House. He was held in high esteem for his accessibility, his deep grasp of issues of public concern, and his sense of fair play.

These qualities helped him make a dynamic transition to leadership in academia. He immediately put all his experiences and skills to work for Holyoke Community College and tens of thousands of graduates have been the beneficiaries.

In recognition of an outstanding career in public service, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating President Bartley on his accomplishments and on his retirement.

CONGRATULATING BISHOP TIMLIN, DR. JAMES AND MRS. MARY LOU BURNE ON BEING HONORED BY THE LITTLE FLOWER MANOR AND THE SAINT THERESE RESIDENCE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bishop Timlin, and Dr. James and Mrs. Mary Lou Burne as they are honored by the Little Flower Manor and St. Therese Residence this Friday, November 14, 2003 at the Annual Crystal Rose Dinner at the Woodlands in Wilkes-Barre.

Bishop Timlin is appropriately being honored for his stewardship and tireless support of the Little Flower Manor. His determination and hard work made the Saint Therese Residence a reality. For the past twenty five years his dedication and persistence has provided an opportunity for the aged and infirm to be treated with respect, dignity and compassion.

Mr. Speaker, as the spiritual leader of the Diocese of Scranton, Bishop Timlin has demonstrated that "together we can move mountains" and inspired others to join in helping to make Northeastern Pennsylvania the compassionate place that it is.

Jim and Mary Lou are being recognized for their unselfish dedication to many worthy causes. They are co-founders of the Family to Family Thanksgiving Food Basket Program that has served over one hundred thousand needy individuals since 1986. They have also played an active role with the Friends of the Poor, Special Olympics, Youth Association for Retarded Citizens, UNICO, YMCA, and Keystone College.

My colleagues, these individuals devote much of their time and effort to help those who are less fortunate. They are leaders in making their communities a better place to live and work.

Mr. Speaker, it is sincerely a privilege and honor to represent these community leaders who devote themselves to helping others and building a brighter future for Scranton and Northeastern Pennsylvania. I ask that my colleagues pay tribute to Bishop Timlin and Dr. James and Mrs. Mary Lou Burne as they receive this well-deserved honor.

IN HONOR OF JUDGE JOSEPH FLORES

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly remarkable man, The

Honorable Joseph Flores of Toledo, Ohio. Recently retired from the Lucas County Juvenile Court, Judge Flores has graciously served our community for several decades. For many who came to this area, Joe Flores was the first person who greeted them and welcomed them to our community. Whether it was as attorney, mentor, or friend, he was dedicated to helping others recognize their potential.

A proud Mexican American, Joe was born August 2, 1934 to Carmen Ventura and Jose Suarez Flores in Toledo. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1956 with a degree in Political Science. He entered into the United States Navy's Officers Candidate School and completed 52 months of active duty, ending in 1961, having attained the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

While still in the Navy, Joe Flores met his wife, Mary Jane, a naval nurse, and the two were married in 1964. They are the parents of two children, Andre Jose and Maria Carmen. Returning from the Navy, Joe decided to attend law school. He graduated from Ohio Northern University in 1964 and practiced law in Findlay, Ohio for one year.

Moving to Toledo in 1966, Joe practiced law with attorneys Charles Doneghy and Robert Penn. Interestingly, all three became judges. He decided to run for elected office because he enjoyed interacting with people when Judge Doneghy would ask him to help at various events. Joe Flores was elected Judge of the Lucas County Juvenile Court in 1981. "At that time, few Latinos were part of the legal community. Becoming known as the Judge who could speak Spanish, he ended up being asked to do a variety of translations. Judge Flores is thought to be the first elected Latino Judge in Ohio. Carlos Cordova was an acting judge at the time, but was not elected to the post. Since then, Ohio has had two other Latino Judges, José Villanueva (Cuyahoga County Common Pleas) and Gustalo Nunez (Lorain Municipal Court.)

Recognizing his contributions to the legal profession and the Hispanic community, the Latino Peace Officers Association created the Judge Joseph Flores Award in May 2003. The award will be given annually to a Latino Peace Officer who exhibits exemplary service to the community. The group decided to name the award after Flores due to his instrumental role in integrating the Toledo Police Department with more Latino Peace Officers.

I am pleased to pay special tribute to my friend Judge Flores for his pioneering efforts on behalf of Latinos in Northwest Ohio. Understanding the importance of a representative voice in the local community, he was the first Latino on many boards as he stresses the importance of community involvement for Hispanics/Latinos.

Judge Joseph Flores forged his career with courage and determination, despite facing many obstacles along the way. He blazed the trail where none existed, and his legacy continues to inspire new generations of Latino leaders. Onward!

H.R. 1829—FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES COMPETITION IN CONTRACTING ACT OF 2003

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1829, the Federal Prison Industries Competition in Contracting Act of 2003. As a Ranking Member of one of the Small Business Committee's Subcommittees, I take very seriously the importance of small businesses in our economy, as well as the impact of our policies in small businesses.

As we have said time and time again, small businesses are the driving force in our economic recovery. They are the lifeblood of the American economy, creating three out of four new jobs, and representing 99 percent of all employers. This is why we must ensure that small businesses receive the tools that they need to compete in today's competitive marketplace and we must make the playing field as level as possible.

Today, we look at a form of unfair competition for small businesses coming from the federal prison industry. The idea behind FPI is to use work as a means of rehabilitation and to teach inmates a skill, which can be used to put them back on the right track. I strongly support this goal. I'm sure all of my colleagues support this goal, as well. Unfortunately it is not that simple. I believe that this commendable idea of giving individuals a means for a second chance has turned into an industry who's sole focus is not rehabilitation, but turning a profit.

As of fiscal year 2002, FPI brought in \$678.7 million in revenue and this would have placed them at 34 out of the top 100 federal contractors for the year. FPI increased their revenue from FY 2001 by more than \$95 million. This level of involvement might seem justified. Yet, as FPI becomes a "Mega" contractor, it benefits only 15 percent of all federal inmates. Something is not right with this picture.

Over past years, FPI has been able to grow through the use of preferential contracting treatment, exemption from such labor laws as OSHA, minimum wage rates and an endless line of credit from the U.S. Treasury Department. This industry is government owned and operated, and has used these competitive advantages to expand its market share, yet they are competing against private sector companies.

Adding on to these advantages is that FPI are not held to basic standards of product quality or requirements to meet deadlines. This is especially concerning because many of the products that come from FPI are used by the troops in our military, and agencies like FAA that ensure safe transportation. These are areas that cannot afford to be taken lightly. We have an obligation to ensure that the public is safeguarded.

I do believe that we can have the principle of using the federal marketplace as a tool in the rehabilitation process of inmates, but it must be balanced and it must be fair. The current practice is weighted too far in favor of FPI

with very little demonstrated benefit, while clearly costing our nation's small businesses jobs and opportunities.

As the main driver of our economy, small businesses deserve a level playing field. In today's competitive market—we cannot overlook an industry that continues to expand while at the same time causing our nation's small businesses to lose valuable opportunities.

It is for these reasons that I support passage of H.R. 1829, and urge my colleagues to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND FRANCIS
G.S. EVERETT, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has served as a mentor in South Carolina's public schools and as a member and pastor of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church in Orangeburg, South Carolina, for more than 30 years.

Reverend Francis G.S. Everett, Jr., spent 23 years at Elloree High School as a teacher and principal and later worked in Orangeburg School District Five. His efforts at community improvement were widely recognized and remain commendable to this day.

The parishioners of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church have strongly supported Reverend Everett as he has lifted up its many ministries and represented the church well in the Mount Pisgah Union, the Orthodox Baptist Association, the Cooperative Baptist Convention of South Carolina, and the Orangeburg Ministerial Alliance. He has also served as a co-chaplain at South Carolina State University, and as a member of the Orangeburg Calhoun Regional Medical Center Chaplain Corp.

An activist for educational advancement, Reverend Everett has served with the Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College Foundation and South Carolina Board of Directors of the State Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the Orangeburg Calhoun Retired Education Association, the South Carolina Education Association, the National Education Association, and as a trustee of Morris College in Sumter, South Carolina.

Reverend Everett earned his A.B. and M.S. degrees from South Carolina State University and was awarded the Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from Union Baptist Seminary of Birmingham, Alabama.

Reverend Everett is married to Mrs. Althea Hilton Everett of Alcolu, South Carolina. The couple has two children, Ralph and Gwendolyn.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you to join me in paying tribute to this role model to educational and spiritual leaders in our nation. Reverend Everett has developed a life of unwavering commitment to his students, his parishioners and his family and friends. He serves as an inspiration to so many, and I am proud to honor him today.

END OF R.J. REYNOLDS' SPONSORSHIP OF THE WINSTON CUP SERIES

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the end of an era in motorsports. Sunday's race at Homestead, Miami marked the last NASCAR race that will be run under R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company's sponsorship and the Winston banner.

Winston Cup and NASCAR have been synonymous for 33 years. Under R.J. Reynolds sponsorship, stock car racing has grown from a regional sport with little national exposure to one with a loyal and global following of millions of fans. More than six million fans attended 39 Winston Cup events this year in 19 states; millions more followed the races, practices, and qualifying sessions on television, radio, and the Internet.

One of the best places to look for examples of the astronomical growth in the sport over the years is in driving winnings: in 1971, Richard Petty won 21 races and took home roughly \$300,000. The last Winston Cup Champion, Matt Kenseth, won one race this year—and will take home more than \$8 million. Those numbers tell only part of the tale, however. Since its initial involvement with NASCAR, Winston has contributed more than \$100 million in point fund money, with \$32 million earmarked for the Cup Champions. And perhaps no one can measure the contribution the company's sponsorship has made to the families and communities associated with the sport and its tremendous growth.

Names like Petty, Jarrett, Waltrip, Yarborough, Allison, and Earnhardt. Towns like Bristol, Darlington, Rockingham, and Talladega. Some carried the sport until Winston came along; others owned it while Winston was there; and still others will carry the Winston tradition into the future. The sport under the Winston banner had its heroes, and its heartaches. Some occupy both categories. Fans everywhere will carry their memories of the Winston Cup with them for years to come.

On behalf of NASCAR fans everywhere, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my thanks to the men and women of R.J. Reynolds for everything they have done for the sport over the last three decades. It truly was a family affair, and the drivers, the teams, and the fans will miss their love for and commitment to the sport.

Time, however, marches on. NASCAR existed before Winston's sponsorship, and it will continue next year with a new Cup Series sponsor. In the eyes of this Member, though, and countless fans across the country, it will always be the Winston Cup.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES DORR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life of James Dorr who passed

away recently at the age of 64. Jim was a pillar of the Steamboat Springs, Colorado community. As his family mourns their loss, I think it is appropriate that we remember Jim's life and celebrate his contributions to our nation today.

Jim's childhood was spent on his family's ranch in the Middle Elk River Valley. After graduating from Steamboat Springs High School, Jim attended Colorado State University where he joined the ROTC program. Upon graduation from college, Jim was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force and entered pilot training in 1962. He was stationed at Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas, where he trained to be an expert pilot of the B-52 bomber.

In 1964, Jim married Margaret Eskeldson, who would be his wife of forty years. He answered his country's call to duty and went on to serve during the Vietnam conflict as the pilot of a bomber crew that logged 120 combat missions. In a time of war, Jim's courage, conviction and patriotism shone through, proving him to be a true hero. By war's end, Jim's service had earned him the rank of Major, as well as numerous decorations.

Upon returning to Steamboat Springs, Jim continued his service to our nation through volunteer work. He was an active member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. With the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Jim served as a Commandant for two terms and was instrumental in spearheading a program to create a scholarship for veterans' dependents.

Mr. Speaker, Jim Dorr's dedication and selflessness certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress and this nation. It is my privilege to pay tribute to him for his many contributions to the community of Steamboat Springs and our nation. I would like to extend my thoughts and deepest sympathies to Jim's family and friends during this difficult time of bereavement.

ACKNOWLEDGING AN INNOVATIVE BOULDER COUNTY COOPERATIVE PLANNING AGREEMENT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an innovative and significant agreement between the various communities in Boulder County, Colorado. Working together in a spirit of cooperation, the nine municipal communities in the county came together with Boulder County to produce this agreement which will help promote wise planning and smart growth management and thereby preserve the quality of life in the county and these communities.

Called the Boulder County Countywide Coordinated Comprehensive Development Plan Intergovernmental Agreement (or the Super IGA), this plan was signed on October 16, 2003 by Boulder County and the communities of Boulder, Erie, Jamestown, Lafayette, Longmont, Louisville, Lyons, Nederland and Superior.

In Colorado, as in many States, intergovernmental agreements are typically created to address common management issues between

neighboring communities. With this Super IGA, communities within the entire county have come together to address common concerns and issues and have established a roadmap for the benefit of all residents of the county.

Over the past few years, county and city officials labored to come to terms on an accord that outlines growth boundaries for development, provides land use regulations that prevent growth into hazardous areas like flood plains, and designates buffer zones between communities. An IGA of this magnitude, across nearly 800 square miles, consisting of a dozen different municipalities, and encompassing over 300,000 people, is a remarkable achievement.

This Super IGA is based on more than 10 underlying plans that inherently permit flexibility through an open amendment process. It is that basic flexibility that will likely drive this 20 year agreement, allowing the various governing bodies to strive for their individual success, yet within the framework of a larger consensual accord.

This innovative and forward-looking approach to planning and growth management is indeed exciting. Clearly, as this is a new approach, we all are watching this carefully and hope that it is successful. But its very creation shows that communities can come together and work toward common goals. Boulder County and these communities have embarked on an approach which I hope will continue to foster positive intergovernmental relationships, and strengthen the sense of our collective community. It's an example of the things that local communities can do to make sure that growth and development complement the needs and desires of citizens and local communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the creators of this Boulder County Super IGA, and in wishing them continued success. For our colleagues' information, I am attaching an article from the Colorado Daily newspaper.

[From the Colorado Daily, Oct. 16, 2003]
"SUPER IGA NOW RULES LOCAL LAND USE IN BOULDER

(By Richard Valenty)

Mayors from Boulder County municipalities joined Boulder County Commissioners in signing the Boulder County Countywide Coordinated Comprehensive Development Plan Intergovernmental Agreement Thursday at A Spice of Life Event Center in Boulder.

Fortunately, the document has a short name, the "Super IGA." The Super IGA partially coordinates at least ten smaller Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA), called Underlying Plans.

IGA's, in general, often involve land use regulations to prevent situations like development in naturally hazardous areas like flood plains, or to manage growth by creating buffers of open space between communities. For example, the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan is a joint land use plan between the city and county of Boulder, thus is an IGA between the two entities.

"These IGA's are sort of a shared vision by the county and by various cities and towns about where growth will happen, and what parts of the county we want to see remain rural in the future," said Ron Stewart, Boulder County Commissioner.

Representatives of the city of Boulder, Boulder County, Lafayette, Longmont, Louisville, Erie, Jamestown, Lyons, Nederland and Superior signed the Super IGA. The town of Ward is not participating, since federal

lands and county open space surround it and therefore urban sprawl is not a concern.

According to Stewart, the Super IGA agreement is the culmination of years of hard work.

"I've been working on this for about the last three years," said Stewart. "Also, the city managers and administrators throughout the county have been very helpful in putting this together. Every city council in the county ultimately voted in favor of this. Our county attorney told me that by the time we got it done, it was on its 30th draft."

The City of Lafayette was the last county municipality to agree to be part of the Super IGA. According to Stewart, it was difficult to create a draft that would satisfy everybody.

"Lafayette simply had more concern about the agreement than other cities, and it took us longer than others to work those issues out," said Stewart. "After the drought last year, they wanted assurance that they could build new reservoirs for water storage."

Not all of Boulder County was covered by an IGA before Thursday, but the Super IGA contains a clause to "cover additional unincorporated areas not covered by any Underlying Plan."

"The Super IGA covers additional territory in the county that would have been outside the area of those agreements," said Stewart.

The Super IGA document is also designed to limit annexation plans of one entity from encroaching on another entity's Influence Areas, according to the document.

"The Super IGA says that everyone will respect each other's planning area, and that one town isn't going to be providing utility services in somebody else's planning area," said Stewart. "It's the kind of commitment to planning and to a shared vision that allows us to keep the quality of life that we have in Boulder County."

Stewart added that Boulder residents should not fear situations like the city of Jamestown trying to influence the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan, since Underlying Plans would only be amended by members of the underlying IGA.

"No group or committee is created out of the formation of the Super IGA," said Stewart. "If anyone wants to change a land use designation, the various underlying IGAs would have to be amended. In our Comprehensive Plan, the city and county of Boulder could change it without the approval of the rest of the Super IGA."

Also, the Super IGA states that additional issues such as sales tax revenue sharing, affordable housing and library services could eventually become parts of regional agreements.

"There isn't any serious talk of revenue sharing right now," said Stewart. "That paragraph is meant to state that there is additional work that could be done in terms of regionalism."

James Burrus, Boulder County media information officer, called the signing of the Super IGA "truly historic." Burrus indicated that this is the only agreement of its kind in Colorado, and Stewart believes it has some national significance as well.

"There are places in America where they do this kind of planning, setting urban growth boundaries, but these are places where the law requires it to happen," said Stewart. "The historic thing here is that nobody required anybody to do this. It was done voluntarily."

"This is really a statement that even in a state like Colorado, where land use laws don't encourage a lot of cooperation, we were all able to get on the same page on a voluntary basis," said Stewart.

IN HONOR OF MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, on October 19, 2003, Roman Catholics, humanitarians, and social justice advocates the world over celebrated the beatification of Mother Teresa of Calcutta by Pope John Paul II in Rome. Beatification is one of the steps toward sainthood in the Roman Catholic Church.

It is impossible to encapsulate the life and work of Mother Teresa into one entry. Many know the basics of her story: born in Albania in 1910, she turned from a comfortable existence when she decided to become a Catholic nun in 1928. Assigned to a convent school in Calcutta, she taught geography and history. Feeling the need to serve God and her fellow human beings in another way, Mother Teresa founded a religious order, the Missionaries of Charity, in 1948. The order was based on reaching out to the poor, the suffering, and the dying wherever they were: streets and alleys, shacks and hovels. From that first mission there are now more than 400. The work has expanded to hospices for AIDS patients so that these sufferers, along with the least among us, enjoy comfort and some measure of peace in their final days. Though 5,000 sisters are now members of the order, thousands more volunteer for periods of their lives in the Missionaries of Charity. So many of these are inspired by the diminutive foundress herself. "My vocation is love" she said. "There is joy in transcending self to serve others."

Celebrated throughout the world for her works, honored with many awards including 1979's Nobel Peace prize, Mother Teresa is already considered a saint by many of those whose lives she touched. No one who met her, who shook her strong hands, who looked at the deeply wrinkled face, who spoke to the dark eyes which penetrated into one's soul, who listened to the deep and powerful voice, came away from the encounter the same person. Even people who saw her only casually were moved by her graceful strength and quiet dignity. I am reminded of a leader in our own country recalling a story of a time on an airplane when people saw her and took out their checkbooks. She never said a word, simply her presence called them to help. In more dramatic ways, meetings with Mother Teresa changed the course of people's lives. Still, she eschewed such trappings of notoriety, gaining her greatest sustenance from her love of God and her work to alleviate the suffering in the world. More than anyone else in our time, Mother Teresa lived Christ's admonition "Whatsoever you do to the least among you, that you do also to me." She ignored the accouterments of affluence by admonishing, "God does not ask me to be successful, he only asks me to be faithful."

She wrestled within herself and struggled through daily hardships, yet she somehow transcended the difficulties and was cherished as a living embodiment of God's love for every human being. I close this recognition of Mother Teresa's beatification with her own summation of her life's work: "My community is the poor. Their security is my own. Their heart is my own. My house is the house of the

poor—not just the poor, but the poorest of the poor: those who are so dirty and full of germs that no one goes near them; those who do not go to pray because they are naked; those who do not eat because they do not have the strength; those who collapse on the sidewalks knowing they are about to die while the living walk by without even looking back; those who do not cry because they have no more tears left."

In one's own lifetime, rarely does a person observe a living saint. Mother Teresa will remain for all time such a living legend. May her selflessness inspire a world beleaguered by war, affluence, and ancient hatreds.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1588,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, with the passage of the conference report on H.R. 1588 today, we have taken a great step forward in the defense of our homeland and the support of our military forces. Not only are we equipping our military with the tools and resources they need to carry out their missions today, we are also providing for the research and development necessary to meet future threats.

I am particularly pleased to see that the House and Senate have seen fit to include a long-awaited agreement regarding concurrent receipt for our disabled veterans. While I regret that we could not provide the full benefits for all of our disabled military veterans, I am encouraged that we are providing full receipt of both retirement and disability pay to more veterans than have ever been previously allowed by law. This Congress has achieved something that hasn't been seen in any previous Congress. I am hopeful that in the coming years we can expand this important benefit for our veterans.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged to see that the benefits of TRICARE have been extended to our National Guardsmen and Reservists and their families. All too often, many of these families are unable to meet their premium payments for private insurance when a family member is called away to serve his or her country. With this provision, we will be providing the health care that our soldiers' families need.

I am pleased to see that reform of the procurement and acquisitions process to the benefit of small businesses is also included in the conference report. It is certainly my desire to see our military receive only the best equipment and services, but not without allowing our nation's small businesses the chance to compete and to offer quality services or innovative products.

Mr. Speaker, our safety and freedom ultimately relies on our troops. I am glad that this legislation provides a strong across the board pay raise and other important provisions for our men and women in uniform and their families. I am deeply grateful for the sacrifices our troops make every day in the name of freedom, and am pleased the House was able to pass it today.

Unfortunately, I was unable to be present for the vote on this conference report due to a visit to my district by President Bush. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on agreeing to the conference report.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGETTE BALET

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable young woman from my district. Brigitte Balet from Montrose, Colorado sacrificed her summer break to assist friends in need. For her service, Brigitte recently received the Key Citizens Award from the City of Montrose and I am proud to join the citizens of Montrose in recognizing Brigitte's contributions before this body of Congress here today.

Last summer, Susan and Paul Beaston lost their home to fire. Without being asked, Brigitte donned a mask and set to work helping the Beastons clean up the mess. Throughout the summer, and into the fall, Brigitte worked tirelessly to clean the home and itemize the damage.

Brigitte's service to the Beastons illustrates her selfless and altruistic nature. It is truly a tremendous young woman who is willing to forego a summer vacation to work in a soot and smoke filled home.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise and pay tribute to Brigitte Balet. She is an amazing young woman with a bright future and a fine example to young people everywhere. I would like to join the Beastons and the Montrose community in congratulating Brigitte on a well-deserved award.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. LELER VIRGINIA SCARBOROUGH GEORGE

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mrs. Leler Virginia Scarborough George, who celebrated her 100th Birthday on November 16, 2003. Mrs. George, whose life has reflected not only her exemplary character, courage and commitment to family, but also a dedication to the education of her children, her faith and an untiring work ethic.

Mrs. George was born on November 16, 1903, to Samuel and Lydia Scarborough of Lee County in Bishopville, S.C. Later, Mrs. George married Jimmy George from Wysacky, SC. They purchased their first home on 75 acres of land, which Mrs. George still owns today. Mr. and Mrs. George placed great importance on educating their children and found the resources to send them to Mayesville Institute, a private, boarding school attended by the incomparable civil and human rights pioneer Mary McLeod Bethune. Despite grave challenges, the Georges successfully balanced the financial demands of schooling their children and running a farming operation.

At the young age of 45, Mr. Jimmy George suddenly passed away, leaving Mrs. George

with eight children to raise and a ninth child on the way. With undaunted courage, Mrs. George resolved to hold on to their home and farm, and continue pursuing their shared dreams. Mrs. George demonstrated her business acumen and success as a farmer by converting the horse and plow operations she inherited to a completely mechanized farm. In 1983, she was named by the Smithsonian Museum as head of one of the eight outstanding farm families in America.

Mrs. George's greatest legacy and contribution to society are the self discipline and burning desire for education that she instilled in each of her children. All nine of whom went to college and received graduate degrees. Their achievements against remarkable odds attest to the determination and sacrifices of Mrs. George. Her oldest son, James, now deceased, attended Morris College, owned several businesses, and served as director of Training and Rehabilitation for the City of Sumter; Rosella G. Toney, now retired, was an Assistant Principal at Bishopville High School; Mary G. Hopkins, served as a college librarian at Virginia State University and retired as head librarian for Franklin County Middle School in Rocky Mount, VA; Dr. Ruth G. Kennedy retired from North Carolina Central University as an Associate Professor of English and served for a year as Executive Assistant to the Interim Chancellor; Ivorie Lowe retired as Dean of Girls at Bloom Township High School in Chicago, IL; Arthur L. George, formerly an educator with both local schools and the University of South Carolina at Spartanburg, retired as a sales manager with Prudential Insurance Company and presently serves as Senior Chaplain for the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center in Virginia; Kershaw George, a former University of South Carolina Administrator in Admissions, has become an entrepreneur; Dr. Eugene George, formerly an Assistant Professor of Education at the University of South Carolina and Associate Superintendent of Richland School District #1, is presently a school principal in Columbia; Doris Baskette, a former school principal, is now a principal leader and mentor with the South Carolina Department of Education.

A dedicated and lifelong member of St. Mark Baptist Church, Mrs. George received St. Mark's "Mother of the Church" honor this year. An active member, she has served as president of the Missionary Society and Floral Club, Treasurer of the Sunday School, and member of the Usher Board. She maintains her political activism through her membership with the National Council of Negro Women.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. George's 100th birthday marks a life of stellar achievements, and she is still going strong. There is no question that Mrs. Leler Virginia Scarborough George is a role model for all of us, and ask you and my colleagues to join me in wishing her God-speed.

MISSED ROLLCALL VOTES

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, on November 17, 2003, this Member unavoidably missed

Rollcall Votes Number 620, 621, 622, 623, 624 due to official business off the Hill. Had this Member been present, this Member would have voted "aye" on these rollcall votes on three suspensions and one procedural vote. The three suspensions were S. J. Res. 22, a resolution recognizing the Agricultural Research Service of the Department of Agriculture for 50 years of outstanding service to the Nation through agricultural research; S. J. Res. 18, a resolution commending the Inspectors General for their efforts to prevent and detect waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, and to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the Federal Government during the past 25 years; and H. Con. Res. 299, a resolution honoring Mr. Sargent Shriver for his dedication and service to the United States of America, for his service in the United States Navy, and for his lifetime of work as an ambassador for the poor and powerless citizens of the United States of America. The fourth vote was a procedural motion changing the hour of meeting for Tuesday, November 18, 2003.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1588, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today, with our soldiers in harm's way around the globe, and as seemingly constant reports come on the television of brave men and women either killed or wounded, I rise in support of the FY04 National Defense Authorization Act conference report. This important legislation provides much-needed pay increases for our troops, as well as authorizes funding for important construction projects at New Mexico's military bases. This is, however, far from perfect legislation and I have very serious concerns about several provisions included in this year's bill. This legislation has traditionally been free of highly controversial issues, which, unfortunately, have found their way into this year's authorization.

I would first like to touch on the exemptions to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) that were included in this legislation. I was a conferee on this section of the bill and believe that the exemptions included in the conference report do not strike an adequate balance between maintaining a level of high military readiness, which I strongly support, and protecting at-risk species.

The DOD argues that the existing national security exemptions in our environmental laws are not good enough for the military, even though the GAO found that claim was without basis. The DOD Authorization Conference Report creates a far weaker and unwarranted regulatory process for the Navy. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, we should have rejected the exemptions to the ESA and MMPA. As Mr. Rumsfeld acknowledged in Qatar, we have the "best trained, best equipped and finest troops on the face of the earth." Considering this, the military exemptions this legislation creates are unnecessary and should have been struck from the Report.

Another issue that I believe is inadequately addressed in the report before us today has to do with the Disabled Veterans Tax, also known as concurrent receipt. This conference report includes a Republican proposal that would only partially end the tax, thereby leaving out two-thirds of military retirees affected by the tax and forcing those covered to wait 10 years for full benefits. Mr. Speaker, since I have been in Congress, I have cosponsored H.R. 303, to provide full concurrent receipt for all veterans eligible for both retirement and disability pay; I have signed the discharge petition to get H.R. 303 on the floor; I have signed numerous letters on this topic; and I strongly support ending this inequitable situation. For that reason, since I support a total fix to this unfair tax, today I will be supporting the Democratic motion to recommit the conference report with instructions to report it back with the complete elimination of the Disabled Veterans Tax.

The conference agreement also contains a number of dangerous provisions relating to the development of a new generation of nuclear weapons. The agreement authorizes the administration's request of \$15 million for research on the nuclear "bunker buster," the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator, plus \$6 million for "advanced concept initiatives." I strongly oppose these provisions. Instead of building new nuclear weapons, I believe we should fund weapons that have just as strong a deterrent capability, but do not encourage new uses for nuclear weapons or encourage a new nuclear arms race.

Mr. Speaker, I voted against H.R. 1588 when it first passed the House because of many of the provisions I just discussed. However, even during its first time through the House, I supported the across-the-board 4.15 percent pay increase for military personnel, and I strongly support these provisions again as it is included in the conference agreement.

However, there are a few provisions in particular that I strongly support which were not included in the initial House version of the Defense Authorization legislation. Now that they are included in the conference report, I will be voting in support of this conference agreement today.

One provision not included in the House version, but one that I have been working hard to ensure it is included in the conference report, is authorization of \$9 million for Cannon Air Force Base located in my district in Clovis, New Mexico. \$7.7 million of this \$9 million would be used to construct a much-needed new Aerospace Ground Equipment (AGE) Complex and \$1.3 million would be used to install a permanent Simplified Short Approach Lighting System (SSALS) with sequenced flashers on a runway at the air force base. These are both very important upgrades that will improve the safety of our troops stationed at Cannon Air Force Base and, in turn, help improve the safety of our nation.

One other provision that has helped sway me to support passage of this authorization is making an additional 12,000 legal permanent reservists who serve in the military eligible to apply to become U.S. citizens after a year of service for citizenship in the United States. I believe that if immigrants are willing to serve in war, then a grateful nation should give them what they are fighting for, American citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, clearly there provisions that are both good and bad. In a bill this size, it is

inevitable that this is the case. As such, because I believe the conference agreement includes important provisions that were not included in the House version of the bill, I will be voting in support of passage of this important legislation. With our men and women overseas in harms way, supporting this bill with its important pay raises for them and their families is a fitting way to show our support for them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the following votes on November 17, 2003, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 620; I would have voted "yea" on S.J. Res. 22, recognizing the Agricultural Research Service of the Department of Agriculture for 50 years of service to the Nation. Rollcall vote 621; I would have voted "yea" on S.J. Res. 18, commending the Inspectors General for their efforts to prevent and detect waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, and to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the Federal Government during the past 25 years.

Rollcall vote 622; I would have voted "yea" on H. Con. Res. 299, honoring Mr. Sargent Shriver for his dedication and service to the United States of America.

Rollcall vote 623; I would have voted "yea" on the motion to change the hour of meeting.

AMERICA'S PRIVATE SECTOR AIDS CIVIC EDUCATION EFFORT, VOTER PARTICIPATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, a recent Gallup poll that asked Americans what keeps our country strong found some very interesting results. While 67 percent identified "willingness to serve in the military" as important to keeping America strong, 84 percent and 86 percent, respectively, identified "high level of voting (in national elections)" and "having a well-educated populace". Yet other polls show that our citizens' civic knowledge is low and that our voter participation is among the lowest in the world.

A number of Americans, from my district and from virtually every other district across the country, are undertaking a major effort to keep our country strong, according to the definition expressed in the Gallup poll. They are working to keep Americans well educated about civic matters and to encourage citizen participation in our democracy.

These patriotic Americans have joined with the Committee for Citizen Awareness (CCA) and other notable Americans like Secretary of State Colin Powell, and Constitutional author Caroline Kennedy in this effort. The CCA provides free, award-winning civic videotapes to America's high schools, cable television sta-

tions, community colleges, libraries and others in every congressional district in the country.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to the efforts of the CCA and to individuals and organizations such as the following:

Tom Beddow, Vice President of Public Affairs and Government Markets of 3M Company

Donald J. Gillespie, President and CEO of A.M. Community Credit Union

John Schofield, Chairman, President and CEO of Advanced Fibre Communications

James W. Barner, President and CEO of Altoona Hospital

Barney B. Chapman, Vice President of America First Credit Union

Marite Plume, President and CEO of Argonne Credit Union

Dr. G. William Benz, President of Ashland University

Ricky A. Burke, Vice President of Metro Region Operations of Atmos Energy

LuAnn C. Williams, Corporate Communication Officer of Bangor Hydro-Electric Company

Dr. Michael Allkins, President of Bay De Noc Community College

Dr. Robert Fisher, President of Belmont University

Michael Cascone, Jr., Chairman, President, and CEO of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Florida

Gary A. Regoli, President/CEO of Boeing Wichita Credit Union

Truman L. Gates, Chief Executive Officer of Desert Regional Medical Center

David Jacobstein, President and COO of Developers Diversified Realty Corp.

Andrew "Flip" Flipowski, President and CEO of divine interVentures, inc.

Vince R. Volpe, President of Dresser-Rand

Doris Grose, President of Educaid, Wachovia Corporation

Dr. Roger S. Newton, President and CEO of Esperion Therapeutics

Marla K. Shepard, President and CEO of First Future Credit Union

Robert Anestis, Chairman, President and CEO of Florida East Coast Industries, Inc.

Patrick L. Taylor, CEO of General Electric Evendale Employees Federal Credit Union

Dr. Craig Turner, President of Hardin-Simmons University

Dr. Charles D. Dunn, President of Henderson State University

Ray Romero, Chairman of Hickam Federal Credit Union

Dr. Jean Goodnow, President of Illinois Valley Community College

Andrew L. Farkas, Chairman and CEO of Insignia Financial Group

Dr. Jerry W. Weber, President of Kankakee Community College

Dr. Joseph G. Burke, President of Keuka College

Dr. Linda Stegall, President of Kingwood College

Thomas Fleming, Chairman of the Board of Kirkflying Center

Walter Malinowski, President of Labat-Anderson Inc.

Dr. L. Michael Metke, President of Lake Washington Technical College

Hank Hernandez, CEO of Las Palmas Medical Center

Brian T. Flynn, CEO of Manatee Memorial Hospital

Mark Hillard, CEO of Maricopa Integrated Health System

Sister Mary Reap, IHM, President of Marywood University

Kenneth Rudzewick, President and CEO of Maspeth Federal Savings and Loan Association

Frank VanderSloot, President and CEO of Melaleuca Advantage Federal Credit Union

Aiken Regional Medical Centers
Akzo Nobel, Inc.
American Savings Foundation
Anglo Gold Jerritt Canyon, Inc.
ARROW Electronics, Inc.
Aultman Health Foundation
AvMed Healthplan
Baltimore City Community College
Bluebonnet Savings Bank
Boston University
Bridgewater State College
Brinks Home Security
Catholic Medical Center
Central Ohio Technical College
Chandler, Franklin & O'Bryan
Chicago Patrolman's Federal Credit Union
Christiana Care Health System
Coastline Community Credit Union
Columbia University Health Sciences
Computer Sciences Corporation
Cushman & Wakefield, Inc.
Cuyahoga Falls General Hospital
Fiorello H. Laguardia Comm. College
First Community Bancshares, Inc.
Flushing Savings Bank
FMC Airport Systems Jetway
Glendale Memorial Hospital
Graceland University
Grenada Lake Medical Center
Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation
Harper-Wyman Company
Hawaii State Federal Credit Union
Holyoke Hospital
Jewish Hospital College of Nursing
Kindred Hospital Greensboro
Laney College
Liberty Mutual Insurance Company
Merck & Co., Inc.
Montreat College
Nassau Educators Federal Credit Union
National Park Medical Center
North Brooklyn Health Network
Northland Area Federal Credit Union
Northwest Florida Community Hospital
Novartis Pharmaceutical Corporation
O-Cedar Brands, Inc.
Provena St. Mary's Hospital
Santa Clara University
Saturn Corporation
Seven Rivers Community Hospital
South Carolina State University
St. John's Regional Medical Center
The Rockefeller Group
The Summit Federal Credit Union
The University of Iowa
Tri-County Technical College
Utah Valley State College
Valley Baptist Health System
Washington County Health System Inc.
Wells Fargo Bank
WesCorp
Wesleyan College
Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division

HONORING NICK BECK

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nick Beck on the occasion of his retirement from the Madera City Fire Department after 39 years of service. A celebration in his honor will take place on Sunday, November 16th in Madera, California.

Mr. Beck proudly served our country in the United States Army before working with the Madera City Fire Department. After training in California and Georgia, he was assigned to

Company B of the 97th Signal Battalion in Germany. Nick was also selected to attend the 7th Army Non-Commissioned Officers Academy where he graduated in the top 10 of his class. Just months after his service in the Army ended, Mr. Beck started his employment with the Madera City Fire Department.

In 1969, Nick was promoted to Apparatus Engineer, a specialist in the operation of heavy fire equipment vehicles. He was named Fire Lieutenant in 1976, then Battalion Chief in 1979. Each promotion was achieved through a competitive examination, and Nick scored number one on each test. In the early '90s, Mr. Beck was instrumental in the city's efforts to contract for fire protection with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Through his efforts, a contractual agreement was met, which led to an estimated \$2 million in savings for the City of Madera over the last 10 years. Nick also received two Madera County Firefighter of the Year awards.

Mr. Beck has also been a prominent member of numerous professional organizations. He is a past-President of the Central California Fire Training Officers Association, the Madera County Employees Federal Credit Union, the Central California Fire Prevention Officers Association, and the Madera Firefighters Association. He is also a member of the 1st Fresno City College Fire Science Advisory Board and the California State Firefighters Association.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nick Beck for his valiant service to the Madera City Fire Department. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Beck an exciting, well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO BEN STEPHENSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable man from my district. For his dedication to the students of Montrose, Colorado, Ben Stephenson was recently named Colorado's Assistant Principle of the Year. I am proud today to call Ben's contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation.

As Assistant Principle of Columbine Middle School, Ben goes beyond the call of duty each day. To best serve the children, Ben works in conjunction with teachers, parents, and administrators to assure the well being of Columbine's students. In addition to his official duties, Ben also works tirelessly for the safety of his students. He has been instrumental in implementing anti-bullying and classroom safety programs in the school. The students of Columbine Middle School are truly safer and happier as the result of Ben's contributions.

For his award, Ben will receive \$1,000 from the Colorado Association of School Executives. Although he could keep this prize money, Ben has decided to use it to spearhead a school project to build a student weight room. This selfless donation is illustrative of Ben's true compassion for the students of Columbine.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation the contributions of Ben Stephenson. Ben has dedicated his life to educating young minds.

His passion for student safety, and his desire to pass along his knowledge and morals to the next generation, is truly admirable. I would like to join the students of Columbine middle school, and the community of Montrose, in congratulating Ben on a well-deserved award.

HONORING THE REMARKABLE CAREER OF MR. RAMON PUIG

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the remarkable accomplishments of Mr. Ramon Puig. He truly is the embodiment of the American dream.

Mr. Puig was born in the central mountain town of Zaza del Medio, in the Cuban province of Las Villas in 1920. At a young age, he learned to be a tailor and at 23, he opened shop in his hometown and began making and selling tropical dress shirts called guayaberas.

As his popularity grew, he traveled throughout the island, taking skillful measurements and delivering his custom-made guayaberas. Eventually, he became a regular supplier of guayaberas to Cubans throughout the entire country.

When Cuba fell to totalitarianism in 1959, Mr. Puig left his shop as he was forced to work in the dictatorship's sugarcane fields.

He arrived in Miami on one of the Freedom Flights of October 18, 1968. There, he worked for eight months as a hotel dishwasher for 95 cents an hour.

He put his life back together and in 1971, opened his first guayabera shop in Miami. His superb work, skillful craftsmanship and attention to detail have earned him the nickname, el Rey de las Guayaberas, the Guayabera King. His stylish shirts have earned him national attention, including a recent article in GQ magazine.

Every day, he drives to his store and personally takes his customers' measurements, cuts the patterns, and supervises the seamstresses who stitch his custom-made guayaberas. His shirts are superbly made with embroidery and fine details that make each shirt unique.

He carefully keeps track of everyone who buys his tailor-made guayaberas with record books filled with names, occupations, measurements and cuttings from the fabric he used to make their particular guayabera.

Mr. Puig's list of clients includes stars George Hamilton, Robert Duvall, Emilio and Gloria Estefan, mayors, governors, senators and every U.S. president since Ronald Reagan. Their autographed photos adorn his office.

In 1995, he moved his shop, La Casa de las Guayaberas, to 5840 SW Eighth Street in Miami. The store carries about 8,000 guayaberas and has hundreds more in storage.

But the love of his life is Juana Maria, the wonderful woman he married 60 years ago. She is his partner in business as well as life.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate my friend, Mr. Ramon Puig, for his long and remarkable career.

I commend him for his hard work and wish him continued success and happiness. I am honored to call this great man, my friend.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER HELEN COSTELLO, RSCJ RECIPIENT OF THE 2003 ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT AWARD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Helen Costello, RSCJ, a distinguished Californian, as she receives the 2003 St. Madeleine Sophie Barat Award. This award, named for the foundress of the Society of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, honors individuals who over a significant period of time have made extraordinary contributions to Sacred Heart Schools, Atherton. Founded in 1897, Sacred Heart Schools includes St. Joseph's School of the Sacred Heart and Sacred Heart Preparatory.

Sister Helen Costello was born in San Francisco and entered the 8th grade at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in 1929, which was then a boarding school for girls. Sister Costello graduated from Sacred Heart School in 1935 and took her final vows in Rome in 1949. She taught at St. Joseph's School from the early 1950's until 1967. During that time she was responsible for overseeing the altar boys, some of whom still keep in touch with her. Since leaving the School, Sister Costello has worked with the Handicapped, assisted children with cancer, and counseled students. Throughout the years, Sister Costello has dedicated her time and talents to the students and families of Sacred Heart School.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to honor her work, her values, and her deep love for her students and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sister Helen Costello, RSCJ, as she receives the 2003 St. Madeleine Sophie Barat Award for her extraordinary contributions to Sacred Heart Schools.

REINTRODUCTION OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW BILL

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

MR. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, for some time, I have believed that it is essential to transform our military so that the United States is better able to deal with the enormous security challenges of the 21st century. Since my first term in Congress, I have worked to develop a more flexible, adaptable military with a "culture of innovation" that will ensure that our security is protected as the threats against us, our allies, and our values grow in number and complexity. But at the same time, I recognize that American national security does not rest solely on the shoulders of the U.S. military.

Based on my work in defense transformation, I became convinced that homeland security was a vital area requiring not just more money, but a major reorganization of the government agencies charged with protecting the American homeland. I introduced the first bill creating a new organization to better protect the homeland on March 21, 2001, and that new Department is now up and running.

I also believe that a transformation is needed at the Department of State so that it is bet-

ter able to formulate and implement American foreign policy in the coming years. On September 18, 1998, I introduced H.R. 4065 in the 105th Congress to require that an independent, non-partisan panel review all the facts and functions of the Department of State and to provide Congress with its findings and with a plan for reorganizing the Department. The bill was reintroduced as H.R. 106 in the 106th Congress and as H.R. 304 in the 107th Congress.

I believe that the events of the past two years only add a greater degree of urgency to the need for such a transformation. It is time for Congress to take action.

The gentleman from Arkansas, Mr. Snyder, has also been working on these issues for some time. He has suggested a number of improvements in my previous proposals, and today we are introducing the revised version of the bill. It does not prescribe in legislative language exactly how the Department of State should be reorganized despite the many studies and reports which have recommended various actions. It does establish the framework for a serious study of all of the recommendations and requires that a proposal be submitted to Congress. We would then have to act upon the legislation in the normal order.

There have been a number of outside studies which recommend reform in very strong terms. For example, in January 2001, a study cosponsored by the Council on Foreign Relations and the Center for Strategic and International Studies and chaired by former Secretary of Defense and career foreign service officer, Frank Carlucci, issued "a scathing report," warning that "the United States will soon face serious dangers and enormous costs because its foreign policy establishment has not come to terms with global changes a full decade after the Cold War ended." (Los Angeles Times, January 30, 2001). "No government bureaucracy is in greater need of reform than the Department of State," the report found.

In March 2001, the United States Commission on National Security/21st Century, better known as the Hart-Rudman Commission, found that "The Department of State is a crippled institution that is starved for resources by Congress because of its inadequacies and is thereby weakened further. The department suffers in particular from an ineffective organizational structure in which regional and functional goals compete, and in which sound management, accountability, and leadership are lacking (p. 47)." Other studies and reports have reached similar conclusions.

This bill requires a serious study of the organization of the Department of State and our diplomatic structure. The Commission created by the bill will examine all levels of the Department, from the organization chart of bureaus and offices to staffing at embassies around the world. It will also look at issues such as public diplomacy—whether we are organized to wage the battle over ideas, which is so critical to the ultimate success of the war on terrorism—and use of foreign assistance—whether we are prepared to use effectively innovative new programs, such as the Millennium Challenge Account.

There may be a variety of opinions on what the Department of State should be doing and on exactly what organizational and process changes should be made, but we should all be able to agree that how decisions are made,

and especially how they are implemented, needs drastic improvement.

Mr. Speaker, change is always difficult, and we should not impose change without a good reason for doing so. We also have an obligation, I think, to seek better, more effective ways to advance American interests, and no Department should be exempt from penetrating examination in pursuit of those larger interests.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VIDEO CONSUMER PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT OF 2003

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

MR. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Video Programming Consumer Privacy Protection Act of 2003. Mr. Speaker, as our Nation's communications networks continue to grow and become ever more sophisticated, more individuals and industries will be using broadband networks at home and work. As America upgrades its communications infrastructure for the 21st century, we must make sure that the information superhighway is safe for all its travelers and this is particularly true with respect to personal privacy.

As the co-chair of the Congressional Privacy Caucus, along with Representative JOE BARTON (R-TX), I have been concerned about protecting privacy and closing anachronistic or technology-specific loopholes in consumer privacy protections for a long time.

Mr. Speaker, it is becoming increasingly apparent that, in addition to the protections accorded consumers with respect to information gathered by cable operators, video rental stores, and telecommunications carriers, which are contained in current law, further protections are needed to ensure that consumer privacy rights are retained and respected on the information superhighway by other entities. This includes entities with access to consumer video information, or who are using other technologies to essentially deliver similar services to those covered by current law.

This is especially the case in the video marketplace. Current law contains privacy protections for consumers when they rent video cassettes—as contained in the Video Privacy Protection Act of 1988, codified at 18 U.S.C. 2710—or subscribe to cable or other services from a cable operator, as contained in the Communications Act of 1934 47 U.S.C. 551.

Since the privacy provisions protecting cable subscribers were put in place in 1984, the Direct Broadcast Satellite industry has developed. Today, EchoStar and DirecTV, for example, have approximately 20 million subscribers. Although they offer multichannel video programming across the country in a manner comparable to many cable operators, current legal privacy protections protect cable subscribers but not satellite subscribers. This makes absolutely no sense when one considers that millions of such satellite subscribers are watching the same programming as the cable subscriber next door. Consumers who switch from cable to satellite service often do not know that the privacy protections the law accords them in one market do not follow them when they switch technologies even

though the video services they obtain are similar.

In addition, the provisions of the Video Privacy Protection Act of 1988, which was enacted in the wake of a scandal involving the disclosure of the video rental records of Judge Robert Bork in a newspaper, covers video cassette rentals but not such "rentals" if they are not in cassette form. In other words, if a consumer physically rents a movie from Blockbuster and walks out of the store with a video cassette, there are legal privacy protections governing the unauthorized disclosure of the consumer's rental choice. Yet if the very same movie is delivered online or over-the-air, and not as a video cassette, it is not covered by that statute.

Moreover, the digital video recorder is quickly becoming a popular device in homes around the country. The personal records of video subscriber choices and viewing habits are available to companies such as Tivo and Replay TV. Consumers should certainly be accorded the same privacy protections for subscribing to these services in my view as they receive under the law from cable operators today. Indeed, the information available to such companies may be more detailed and specific about a consumer's viewing habits than that which may be obtained by many cable operators. The total lack of any legal protections in this area is especially troubling given reports that such companies are willing to sell certain, aggregate data about consumer viewing habits to marketers and others. Currently there is no prohibition on the sale or disclosure of more personal television viewing data.

Mr. Speaker, the bill I'm introducing today is very simple and straightforward. It merely takes the provisions of law governing consumer privacy which today apply to cable operators and makes them applicable to satellite providers as well as vendors of other multi-channel video services, including Tivo and Replay TV. This bill provides essential, similar privacy protections for consumers regardless of whether they subscribe to Comcast or Cox cable, Echostar or DirecTV, or whether they also subscribe to Tivo or ReplayTV. This will keep our critical consumer privacy laws current with changes in the marketplace and advances in technology.

I look forward to working with my House colleagues, including my colleagues on the Telecommunications and Internet Subcommittee and fellow members of the Congressional Privacy Caucus, in addressing these issues perhaps in the next session of Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote on S.J. Res. 18, Commending the Inspector General for their efforts to prevent and detect waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement during the past 25 years (No. 621). I intended to vote "aye."

TRIBUTE TO SISTER ANN
MCGOWAN, RSCJ—RECIPIENT OF
THE 2003 ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE
BARAT AWARD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Ann McGowan, RSCJ, a distinguished Californian, as she receives the 2003 St. Madeleine Sophie Barat Award. This award, named for the foundress of the Society of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, honors individuals who over a significant period of time have made extraordinary contributions to Sacred Heart Schools, Atherton. Founded in 1897, Sacred Heart Schools includes St. Joseph's School of the Sacred Heart and Sacred Heart Preparatory.

Sister Ann McGowan, RSCJ, was born in Washington DC, and moved with her family to the West Coast when she was still a child. She attended La Jolla High School in San Diego and the San Diego College for Women, where she majored in Biology. She entered the Society of the Sacred Heart soon afterward, and spent her years as a novice at the Sacred Heart School in nearby El Cajon. She was given special permission to come to teach at St. Joseph's School, which was transitioning from being an all-boys parish school to being a co-ed Sacred Heart School.

Sister McGowan loved working with boys during the day, pinning up the skirts of her habit to coach baseball in the afternoons, and working in the girls boarding school at night. In the fall of 1976, she began her tenure as Principal of St. Joseph's School, Preschool through 8th Grade, and the school prospered under her enlightened leadership for 16 years. It was Sister McGowan's vision that the school pride itself on excellence in all areas, educating the whole child. She insisted on the highest standards for her students and for her faculty, and of course, for herself. Her eye for excellence helped to build one of the finest schools in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to honor Sister McGowan's work, her values, and her deep love for her students. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sister Ann McGowan, RSCJ, as she receives the 2003 St. Madeleine Sophie Barat Award for her extraordinary contributions to Sacred Heart Schools.

U.S.-CHINA MARITIME AGREEMENT
BEGINS A NEW ERA OF CO-
OPERATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the recent U.S.-China maritime agreement, the result of successful U.S.-China maritime negotiations that concluded in August of this year. The agreement, which is now under final review by the Departments of Transportation and State, is the most significant maritime pact with China in the last 15 years, and represents a major breakthrough in U.S.-China maritime relations.

Its conclusion is a testament to the will of both governments and the importance of U.S.-China bilateral relations.

The recently announced framework agreement between the U.S. and China is significant because it addresses a number of long-standing impediments to expanding maritime trade between our two nations. The agreement achieves a long overdue goal, which I have supported, of ensuring a level playing field for both countries. While the specific details of the agreement are yet to be released, the fundamental issues of concern for the U.S. involved market access issues such as: bonding for Non-Vessel Operating Commercial Carriers, opening branch offices, and provision of logistics services. Issues for China included the filing of confidential freight rates and controlled carriers, among others.

The commitment of lead U.S. negotiator Captain William Schubert, U.S. Maritime Administrator and his Chinese counterpart, Su Xiang, Director General of the Department of Water Transport, was significant in reaching this agreement. Captain Schubert and Director General Su reflected the newfound will of their governments since the expiration of the last agreement in 1998.

Since 1998, the policies of the government of China on international maritime trade have evolved from protectionism, to an acceptance of the benefits of competition and open access for consumers and shippers of both countries. In January 1999, I met with Vice Minister of Communications Hong Shanxiang in Beijing. Minister Hong referred to China as a developing country whose maritime interests needed protection. I pointed out that in maritime it was the United States that was in the position of a developing country, with our fleet declining from 3,000 vessels in 1945 to 450 in 1999, making us the smallest maritime nation. China, meanwhile has become a maritime power.

I am pleased that the government of China has now recognized that in the maritime field, their industry is capable of meeting the challenges, and gaining the benefits, of a competitive system. With this agreement, both governments committed to making the concept of a more open and economically successful bilateral maritime relationship a reality.

The China Ocean Shipping Company (COSCO) was an important force behind the U.S. China Maritime agreement. COSCO is the 5th largest shipping company in the world and the principle maritime carrier between Asia and the United States. I wish to applaud COSCO's leadership in both Beijing and Washington, notably Mr. Gao Weijie, who kept all of us informed and helped to forge a consensus among the maritime parties involved.

Much work remains once the agreement is officially signed. Both sides must take completing actions to ensure that the discriminatory policies are dismantled, as provided for in the agreement.

Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking Democrat on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and an active maritime policy participant for over two decades, I want to commend Captain Schubert and Bruce Carlton of MARAD, Minister Hu of China, Mr. Gao of COSCO, and all maritime agreement participants who worked so hard to ensure that this U.S.-China Maritime agreement would become a reality.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, on November 17 I was unavoidably detained in my district and was not able to vote on rollcall votes numbered 620, 621, 622, and 623. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 620, "aye" on rollcall 621, "aye" on rollcall 622, and "aye" on rollcall 623.

ACKNOWLEDGING MR. DENNIS DOUGHERTY, CEO OF VISUAL ELECTRONICS, LTD

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Mr. Dennis Dougherty, the CEO of Visual Electronics, Ltd. Dennis has not only been a leading entrepreneur in Colorado, he is also an active leader of the Human Rights Campaign and an outspoken proponent of civil rights. Still a Republican, despite my entreaties to the contrary, Dennis is living proof that one can be a hard-driving and successful businessman and also contribute to causes that are beyond self-interest and the so-called "bottom line."

A Colorado newspaper recently published a profile on Dennis Dougherty and included some highlights of his career in the ever-changing high technology sector. I would like to share a few items that describe Dennis and his contributions to both the private and public sectors:

As the hands-on director of a 25 year old customer service-oriented company, Dougherty has weathered tough economic times by stressing attention to client satisfaction. Visual Electronics marketing manager, Kim Johnson, said, "If you make a client happy, they're going to come back to you."

Dennis was raised in Omaha, Nebraska and served in Vietnam after being drafted by the Army. Dennis served honorably and in a time and place where being an "out gay person" was unheard of and dangerous.

Through 12 hour work days and a continuing commitment to meet the needs of his customers, Dennis built a multi-million dollar company providing ACD monitoring systems for call centers, 911 emergency operations, help desks and tech support lines. Visual Electronics is, in its own way, a prime example of the growth potential in technology services.

Dougherty has also been a regional and national philanthropist, supporting human rights work, aimed at establishing equal rights for gays and lesbians. Dennis is also a major supporter of the Colorado AIDS Project and the National Sports Center for the Disabled in Winter Park, Colorado.

Coloradans are proud of Dennis Dougherty and the contribution he and his company have made to our state. Through his attention to detail, his strong people skills, his sales acumen and his outstanding commitment to his work colleagues, Dennis and Visual Electronics, Ltd. are valuable members of our business community and I am proud to recognize him today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I missed four votes in the House of Representatives on November 17, 2003. Had I been in attendance I would have made the following votes:

Passage of S.J. Res. 22, Recognizing the Agricultural Research Service of the Department of Agriculture for 50 years of outstanding service to the Nation through agricultural research. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

Passage of S.J. Res. 18, Commending the Inspectors General for their efforts to prevent and detect waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, and to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the Federal Government during the past 25 years. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

Passage of H. Con. Res. 299, Honoring Mr. Sargent Shriver for his dedication and service to the United States of America, for his service in the United States Navy, and for his lifetime of work as an ambassador for the poor and powerless citizens of the United States of America, and for other purposes. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

On the Motion regarding the Hour of Meeting. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO BRANDON PHILIP WATTERS

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a brave young man from my home district, who selflessly gave his life trying to save a friend.

On June 25, 2003, Brandon Philip Watters was at Sequoia National Park with his brother, Garett, and friends. They were swimming at "the cliffs," along the Kaweah River. Brandon was enjoying a well-deserved summer break from pre-med courses at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Suddenly, Brandon noticed that his friend, Renne Suddeth, was caught in the rapids. Without thought to his own safety, he immediately dove in the water, struggling against the roiling waters. Marshaling every bit of his strength, he was able to get his nearly drowned friend to safety.

Just as Garett pulled Renne from the river, Brandon was pulled underneath the turbulent water by strong currents. Recognizing the extreme peril of diving in after Brandon, who was the strongest swimmer among them, the others kept each other from jumping in after him.

Brandon's courageous act cost him his life. The water was so treacherous that well-trained, experienced divers noted that it hindered their recovery efforts for more than two hours.

Brandon was undoubtedly aware of the danger. We know that he would make the same decision were he given that choice again. His

sacrifice is a testimony to his personal character.

That was even evident as hundreds of his friends flocked to St. Mary's Church to honor his memory. His wit, intelligence, self-effacing modesty, generosity and kindness have touched many people.

I urge my colleagues to join me by extending their sympathies and deepest gratitude to the family of Brandon Watters for his life and sacrifice. He will be missed.

GAP IN HOMELAND SECURITY

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a serious gap in our homeland security strategy and to encourage my colleagues to work with me to move expeditiously and cost effectively to remedy this problem. Currently, the Coast Guard only employs eight armed air assets that are equipped to use force to protect our entire port and waterway network and to enforce our nation's drug laws. This is unacceptable. This fleet is obviously much too small to provide coverage to the almost 90,000 miles of U.S. coastline and hundreds of ports and waterways. In light of this serious vulnerability, it is my strong belief that the Coast Guard should move quickly to initiate a competition for a new multi-mission armed cutter helicopter. We need more assets now and should not stand idle while millions of Americans who live along our coastlines remain vulnerable. This being said, I completely support the mandate of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee contained in H.R. 2443 that directs the Coast Guard to expand its fleet of armed Sting Ray helicopters. The plan to acquire additional HITRON Sting Ray helicopters through a flexible lease arrangement is a common sense interim solution until a new state-of-the-art multi-purpose helicopter can be deployed. In the aftermath of 9-11, the Sting Ray fleet suddenly has a key role on the front lines of both America's war on drugs and terrorism.

On September 15, 2003, Coast Guard Subcommittee Chairman LoBiondo and Ranking Member Filner wrote the leadership of the Appropriations Committee to emphasize the priority our Coast Guard Subcommittee is giving to the establishment of an expanded fleet of MH-68A armed helicopters. Recognizing the Coast Guard is confronting a serious challenge in trying to balance its limited resources to meet both its humanitarian missions and its new homeland security responsibilities, it is my belief that the only way to effectively address this problem is to increase the number of assets tasked to perform these kinds of operations and to ensure that these assets have prioritized missions. The Coast Guard simply does not have enough assets to perform all their traditional missions plus all their new responsibilities. As a result, the Coast Guard should acquire additional assets for the airborne use of force mission.

I am particularly alarmed over reports out of the Coast Guard that there is a plan to rebuild their existing 20 year old HH-65 fleet rather than replace it through a competitive process. This is a classic case of being penny wise and

dollar foolish and it defies common logic in this post-9–11 environment. Instead of accurately identifying the new mission and then deciding on the best possible helicopter to carry it out, it is an example of shrinking the mission to fit the assets on hand. The Department of Homeland Security requires a new and larger state-of-the-art cutter-deployed helicopter to meet the growing challenge. Rebuilding a twenty year old helicopter is simply not acceptable. The Coast Guard should move quickly to initiate a competition to procure a modern technology Multi-Mission Cutter Helicopter and related Airborne Use of Force assets that can also be used by Customs, Secret Service and the Border Patrol. Mr. Speaker, as you and others in this body know, I am a fiscal conservative who is always conscious of how we in Washington spend taxpayer dollars. I have also always been a strong advocate for the Coast Guard and believe that this branch of our military service is a big bang for the taxpayer buck. Given the 100 percent success of the current HITRON fleet, I believe this would be one of the most effective and cost-efficient ways to address the enormous vulnerabilities that continue to exist along our nation's coastlines and in our ports and waterways.

APPLAUD AMERICA'S LOCAL
BROADCAST STATIONS

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud America's local broadcast stations for a program they recently launched to assist the families of our men and women in uniform who are fighting the war on terrorism abroad.

As of today, there are more than 140,000 active-duty and reserve personnel serving our great Nation in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world.

I have the privilege of representing the soldiers stationed at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, the 5th Special Forces Group, and the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. The men and women of these premier Army units have been deployed for extensive periods of time, often with little or no break between deployments.

For the families left behind, these extended separations can be trying not only emotionally, but financially as well. In many cases, the primary "bread winner" is the person sent overseas, leaving wives and children to cope with unexpected expenses.

The National Association of Broadcasters and its 6,000 radio station and 1,000 television station members recently partnered with the Armed Forces Relief Trust (AFRT) to help raise funds for those families that are facing financial challenges. The AFRT solicits contributions and then disburses interest-free loans and grants to family members of deployed personnel who are in need. To support this effort, the broadcasters produced and are voluntarily airing Public Service Announcements, so that AFRT can assist even more families in need.

The AFRT provides important services. They may provide assistance so a soldier can

fly home to attend their father's funeral. The services may include a special reading program for a sailor's daughter. They may assist with special medical attention for a pilot's spouse, or college tuition for a Marine's child.

Mr. Speaker, our fighting men and women and their families are sacrificing a great deal on our behalf. It is the duty of all Americans to provide comfort and assistance in any way they can.

I extend a special thanks to the radio and television station owners who are calling attention to this important cause. They are providing an important public service and I commend them for their efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 17, 2003, I was unable to record my vote on three resolutions under suspension of the rules, and one motion changing the hour of meeting. My unavoidable absence was due to the fact that I was hosting an important forum on Chronic Wasting Disease in Wisconsin with federal and state leaders.

Had I been able to vote, I would have voted the following:

Roll call #620: Yes, Roll call #621: Yes, Roll call #622: Yes, Roll call #623: Yes.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF SIMHA LAINER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, Mr. SHERMAN and I rise today to pay tribute to our good friend, Simha Lainer who will be celebrating his 100th birthday at a dinner and reception hosted by the New Community Jewish High School on Sunday, December 14, 2003. Simha has been a cornerstone of the Jewish community in Los Angeles for many years, and he continues to play an active role in the promotion of Jewish education and many other worthy causes.

Simha was born in the Ukraine. As a young man, he spent time in the Middle East, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, and Mexico. He immigrated to the United States with his family in 1951. Although he worked in the textile industry, and later in real estate, his passion has always been education.

Simha, along with his wife Sara (z"l) and his three remarkable sons Mark, Nahum and Luis, who in their own right have supported so many worthy causes, have pioneered efforts to make a Jewish education available to as many children as possible. In 1989, Simha and his family established the Simha and Sara Lainer Fund for Jewish Education. As a result of this fund, the Los Angeles Bureau of Jewish Education has provided financial aid to many students that otherwise would have been unable to study the Torah. The fund has also provided Simha and his family an opportunity to honor religious schoolteachers and early

childhood educators for their hard work and dedication.

Simha has also provided critical leadership to promote upper levels of Jewish education. For example, he served on the Board of Directors at the University of Judaism, the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Community Foundation, and the Board of the West Coast Friends of Bar Ilan University. Simha is also the founder of the Western Region of American Friends of the Hebrew University.

In addition to his many educational achievements here in the United States, Simha has also displayed an unwavering commitment to the establishment and maintenance of Israeli institutions of education. Thanks to his leadership and vision, thousands of Israeli and American children will be prepared to lead productive lives and promote religious and cultural tolerance.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in saluting Simha for all of his outstanding contributions and to wish him a happy 100th birthday.

RECOGNIZING CHESTER COUNTY
CHAPTER 377 OF THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FEDERAL
EMPLOYEES

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chester County Chapter 377 of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees and all of its members on the 50th anniversary of its founding.

The National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE), an organization of former workers of the United States government, was established in 1921 and has grown to over 420,000 members—each of whom is affiliated with one of 1,591 chapters nationwide. They perform an advocacy role at the national level in promoting and protecting the annuity and health insurance rights of all former employees. It also provides significant services to all United States government retirees by aiding them in understanding and utilizing their individual rights under current directives.

Much like other national advocacy groups, NARFE is separated into state organizations which are further subdivided into a number of local chapters based on population and geography. In Pennsylvania, there is a statewide federation of approximately 22,000 members who likewise are affiliated with Chester County Chapter 377 or one of the 56 other local chapters.

The Chester County Chapter 377 of NARFE encompasses the entire county and has a membership of over 400 retirees. The Chapter holds ten meetings a year hosting outside speakers on a variety of issues important to its members. I am honored to be speaking at their 50th Anniversary luncheon on December 2, 2003. In addition to the meetings, NARFE members are informed on retirement issues through a national monthly magazine and from periodic chapter newsletters.

I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Chester County Chapter 377 of the National Association of Retired Federal

Employees, its President Stewart F. Taylor, and all of its members on the 50th Anniversary of the its founding. Half a century of hard work and dedication has led to great success in protecting the benefits of retired federal employees in Chester County, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and across the United States.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF RETIRED BRIGADIER GENERAL
PAUL ROBBERSON

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of retired Brigadier General Paul Roberson. Today, Paul was brought to his final resting place at our Nation's most hallowed ground, Arlington National Cemetery. Our friend and colleague now rests with America's national heroes.

Although born a Californian, Paul's first assignment as an Air Force officer brought him to Texas, and he spent much of his career in the San Antonio area. A veteran of the Vietnam War, Paul's military honors included the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

After a long, distinguished career with the United States Air Force, Paul led efforts in San Antonio to avoid the closure of Kelly AFB during the 1995 BRAC process. With the BRAC decision to close and realign Kelly AFB, Paul wasted no time in working to transform the largest base to be closed in the BRAC process into a productive and vibrant center for aerospace maintenance and international trade. Under his leadership, Kelly AFB became KellyUSA, which now boasts thousands of new jobs and a bright future as a leading industrial and trade center in South Texas. He has left a legacy of success.

Creating KellyUSA was no easy task, and Paul approached it with both determination and optimism. I worked closely with Paul during these years after I came to Congress. Paul always had his list of priority action items and gently, but firmly, made his case. He met obstacles resolutely and with confidence. More often, he welcomed success with humility and appreciation. This is how I will remember Paul.

Paul leaves behind a loving family and a community in San Antonio which he helped shape for the future. We all owe Paul our thanks and appreciation for his life of service to our Nation, to the United States Air Force, to KellyUSA, and to the people of San Antonio. Paul made public service an art, and we all thank him for the tapestry of his life's work.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT GLOCKNER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Glockner, a distinguished Cali-

fornian, as he receives the 2003 St. Madeleine Sophie Barat Award. This award, named for the foundress of the Society of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, honors individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to Sacred Heart Schools, Atherton, over a significant period of time. Sacred Heart Schools founded in 1897, includes St. Joseph's School of the Sacred Heart and Sacred Heart Preparatory.

Robert Glockner, Trustee Emeritus, became involved with Sacred Heart School in 1975 when the first of his four daughters to graduate from Sacred Heart Preparatory enrolled in the school. In 1976 he was asked to serve on the Advisory Board that later became the governing Board of Trustees. Mr. Glockner served as the Chair of the School's first major capital campaign and helped to raise \$3.5 million and funded the completion of the McGanney Gymnasium. From 1984 to 1986 he served as Chair of the Board. For his determination and leadership during his twelve years on the Board he was named Trustee Emeritus, a distinction bestowed on only two other Board members.

I'm exceedingly proud to honor his work, his values, and his commitment to Sacred Heart Schools. He is a model for others to emulate and his leadership will touch generations of students to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Robert Glockner as he receives the 2003 St. Madeleine Sophie Barat Award for his extraordinary contributions to Sacred Heart Schools.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1588,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, when this House voted on H.R. 1588 in May, I voted against it. I didn't think the bill as it stood then was one I could endorse. The conference report that we are considering today is marginally better. Although I still have strong reservations, I will support the conference report.

We are 2 years into our war on terrorism and still engaged in military action in Iraq. There is no doubt that we must continue to focus on defending our homeland against terrorism, we must support our military personnel, and we must give our military the training, equipment, and weapons it needs to beat terrorism around the world.

That's why I'm in favor of provisions in the bill that support those men and women who have put their lives on the line in Afghanistan and Iraq. The bill provides an average 4.15 percent pay raise for service members, boosts military special pay and extends bonuses, and funds programs to improve living and working facilities on military installations.

I am pleased that the report includes provisions recognizing the importance of non-citizen soldiers and the many sacrifices and contributions they have made. The report eases the naturalization process for these soldiers and their families, reducing to one year the length of service requirement for naturalization

during peacetime; allowing soldiers to apply and take oaths for citizenship overseas; and granting permanent resident status to the surviving family of U.S. citizen soldiers who are granted posthumous citizenship as a result of death incurred in combat.

I'm also pleased that this bill will allow approximately one-third of eligible disabled military retirees to receive both their retirement and disability benefits. I would have preferred that the bill extend this "concurrent receipt" to all disabled retirees, but this is a great improvement on the bill the House considered earlier this year—which included no such provisions. I am also pleased that the bill extends the military's TRICARE health coverage to National Guard and reservists and their families if servicemembers have been called to active duty. These are all necessary and important provisions that I support.

I do have a number of serious reservations about the bill.

I don't believe it addresses 21st century threats as well as it could. With the exception of the Crusader artillery system, the Administration and Congress have continued every major weapons system inherited from previous administrations. So although the bill brings overall defense spending to levels 13 percent higher than the average Cold War levels, it doesn't present a coherent vision of how to realign our defense priorities.

The bill still includes provisions that would exempt the Department of Defense from compliance with some requirements under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). There is broad-based support for existing environmental laws—as there should be—and these laws already allow case-by-case flexibility to protect national security. The Pentagon has never sought to take advantage of this flexibility, so it strains belief that these laws are undermining our national security. Indeed, the General Accounting Office has found that training readiness remains high at military installations notwithstanding our environmental laws. I am not persuaded that the changes to these acts proposed by the military are justified.

The bill still includes worrisome provisions to overhaul DOD's personnel system. Although they are improved from the bill the House considered earlier this year, these provisions would still strip DOD's civilian employees of worker rights relating to due process, appeals, and collective bargaining.

Most disturbingly, the bill still includes provisions on nuclear weapons development. This bill provides funding to study the feasibility of developing nuclear earth-penetrating weapons and authorizes previously prohibited research on low-yield nuclear weapons. Low-yield nuclear weapons have an explosive yield of five kilotons or less—"only" a third of the explosive yield of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Our obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) require the United States to work towards nuclear disarmament, rather than further increase the size and diversity of our arsenal. By continuing the development of new U.S. nuclear weapons at the same time that we are trying to convince other nations to forego obtaining such weapons, we undermine our credibility in the fight to stop nuclear proliferation.

Mr. Speaker, I am very disappointed that this conference report rolls back civil service

protections, environmental protections, and our work in the area of nuclear nonproliferation. But some of these provisions were improved in conference, and the addition of concurrent receipt provisions for our nation's veterans is critical. In view of these changes to the bill, added to my belief in the importance of supporting our men and women in uniform, I will support the conference report today.

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY SOMOGYI

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I pay tribute to Captain Anthony Somogyi from Palisade, Colorado. Anthony is a pilot in the United States Army who recently returned home from serving our country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Our nation is proud of Anthony's extraordinary valor, and it is my honor today to pay tribute to his dedication and commitment before this body of Congress.

Anthony grew up in Palisade and attended Palisade High School. After graduating, he moved to the University of North Dakota where he earned his bachelors degree and graduated cum laude. Upon leaving college, Anthony decided to employ his considerable education and talents for the betterment of our nation. His patriotism and conviction is a shining example to all young Americans.

Anthony was assigned to the Army's 4th Infantry Division for a six-month deployment in Iraq. While there, he was an Air Mission Commander whose team flew over 80 combat missions. Anthony's unit participated in Task Force Iron Horse, the operation responsible for seizing numerous airfields and countless weapons throughout Iraq. In addition, he played a role in securing the border between Iran and Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to Captain Anthony Somogyi's courageous service. His selfless desire to protect the freedom of all Americans is a reflection of his unwavering love for our country. I am extremely proud of Anthony and his fellow servicemen and women. Thank you and welcome home.

RECOGNIZING JASON THOMAS HANSER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jason Thomas Hanser, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 66, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jason has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the 7 years Jason has been involved with Scouting, he has earned 37 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as assistant senior patrol leader, patrol leader,

librarian, and assistant scoutmaster in Troop 66. Jason is also a Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Jason identified and mapped out the location of all veterans buried in the cemetery in Plattsburg, Missouri. He identified over 350 veterans dating back to the Civil War. His project aided the American Legion in placing flags on Memorial Day.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jason Thomas Hanser for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). Congress designated each October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month in order to increase the public's awareness of the contributions and skills of American workers with disabilities. Various programs carried out throughout the month also highlight the specific employment barriers that still need to be addressed and removed. People with disabilities face many barriers to employment, including everything from transportation to contending with the prevailing attitude surrounding the disabled, but many of them want to work. They want the opportunity. The key is to focus on the abilities of the person, not the disabilities.

This effort to educate the American public about issues related to disability and employment actually began in 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month." This year's theme for National Disability Employment Awareness Month was "America Works Best When All Americans Work."

I am also grateful to Wayne McMillon, CEO of the Bobby Dodd Institute, Lori Nipp, Board Member of the Bobby Dodd Institute, Megan Dakake of the Bobby Dodd Institute and Dorothy Cochran, CEO of Clayton County Worktec who work actively to prepare individuals with disabilities for employment, to expand employment opportunities available to them and to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities in Georgia. Each of these individuals work on behalf of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program which provides employment opportunities for nearly 40,000 Americans who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

The Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program uses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating, community-based nonprofit agencies dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. In the United

States, the program serves 40,000 people with disabilities and 972 Georgians with disabilities earned nearly \$3 million in wages last year as a result of JWOD.

A coordinated effort on behalf of the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (the Federal agency that oversees the Program), National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH-Creating Employment Opportunities for People with Severe Disabilities, the JWOD Program provides people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities the opportunity to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits and gain greater independence and quality of life. Through the JWOD Program, people with disabilities enjoy full participation in their community and can market their JWOD-learned skills into other public and private sector jobs. It is with great pleasure that I recognize the great contributions of American workers with disabilities and I encourage others to do the same every day of the year.

TRIBUTE TO JIM L. RIDLING FOR HIS TIRELESS COMMUNITY SERVICE TO MONTGOMERY, AL, AND MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, Montgomery, Alabama, in my congressional district, is the home to Maxwell Air Force Base and the Air University. It is without a doubt the crown jewel in Air Force excellence and base operations. This didn't just happen by accident. Many people have played major roles in building the necessary synergy of local and federal support to transform Maxwell and Montgomery into the success stories they are today. One of those key players is Jim L. Ridling, who is retiring from Southern Guaranty Insurance.

As the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce points out, senior Air Force leaders continue to praise the excellent relationship between the Montgomery and Maxwell-Gunter as the best in the Air Force. No doubt, some of that praise goes to the man who twice presided over the "Wright Flyers", served as chairman of the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce's Military Council, and labored as a member of the Executive Committee of the Montgomery Air Force Association.

Jim Ridling has worked behind the scenes and sometimes out front to make sure the needs of Maxwell and other area defense activities were met both locally and in Washington. This is no small task and the rewards are big as Montgomery continues to enjoy a local defense economic impact of well over \$1 billion annually.

All I have mentioned really doesn't begin to scratch the surface of Jim's community service. He's also a member of the Board of Directors of the Business Council of Alabama, a member of Board of Directors of the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Board of Directors of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, a member of the School of Business Advisory Council of Troy State University, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Boy Scouts of America. And this remarkable record doesn't even include his "real" job.

This week we pause to honor Jim Ridling as he retires from the post of President and CEO of Southern Guaranty Insurance Company in Montgomery. Jim was never content with building Southern Guaranty into a business success. He also focused his sights on making Montgomery a continued success. And we are ever grateful. I wish him and his wife Catherine all the best, but I somehow believe that Jim's days of service to Montgomery are far from over.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL MITCHELL
PAIGE

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the life of one of our nation's greatest, and most decorated, war heroes Marine Colonel Mitchell Paige. Colonel Paige passed away this past weekend on November 15, 2003 in his home in La Quinta, California. He is survived by his wife Marilyn, his six children, fifteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. I want to extend my deepest condolences to Marilyn, who is a wonderful woman and whom I know Colonel Paige loved very deeply, as well as her entire family.

Colonel Paige served with distinction in the Marine Corps for nearly twenty-eight years with a career that spanned from the date of his enlistment on September 1, 1936 to his retirement on July 1, 1964. The numerous awards and medals bestowed upon Colonel Paige included the Medal of Honor, the Purple Heart, and the Presidential Unit Citation.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt bestowed the Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor given a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, on then Platoon Sergeant Paige for his heroic actions on October 26, 1942 during World War II's Battle of Guadalcanal. His career and service to our nation are so exemplary that the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Michael W. Hagee, added Colonel Paige's autobiography, "A Marine Named Mitch," to the U.S. Marine Reading Program. His actions are so legendary that the Hasbro Toy Company used his likeness for their 1998 Medal of Honor GI Joe model.

Words cannot justly describe the valor and steadfastness to duty that were displayed by Colonel Paige during the Battle of Guadalcanal. To understand his heroism, one must first understand the importance of the airstrip that his Marine Platoon fought to control during the fall of 1942. During that fall, the Japanese Army was building an airstrip in the Solomon Islands from which they would be able to disrupt communication and supply lines between the United States, Australia and Great Britain. On August 7, 1942, in a surprise attack, the Marines landed and quickly seized control of the field. The Marines completed construction and put the field into operation. In the battles that followed, the two sides continued to struggle for control of the island.

On October 26, 1942, Platoon Sergeant Paige led his platoon of thirty-three men in defending the critical ridge from which the opposing forces planned to launch their final assault against the airfield. During the fighting, each and every member of Paige's platoon

was wounded or killed. The only Marine able to fight, Paige moved up and down the line pulling the dead and wounded back into their foxholes. Sergeant Paige held the Japanese Army back by firing short bursts from each of the four water-cooled Browning machine guns that his platoon had been given to defend the critical ridge. His actions convinced the Japanese that the crest of the hill was well defended. In truth, it was, defended by a single Marine named Platoon Sergeant Mitchell Paige.

Sergeant Paige's heroism did not end there. In the morning mist, near the end of the fighting, Sergeant Paige grabbed one of the water-cooled Brownings, a job for which the weapon was never designed, and walked down the hill towards the location of the enemy who were preparing to outflank his position. Firing as he went, Sergeant Paige took out the remaining enemy forces on the ridge. Later, joined by a makeshift line consisting of communication personnel, riflemen, runners, cooks and messman, Sergeant Paige led a bayonet counterattack against the enemy. The counterattack was successful and the Japanese forces, having suffered staggering losses, receded all because a single Marine fought with valor and distinction on a small island a little over sixty-one years ago.

After the Battle of Guadalcanal, Colonel Paige continued to serve in the Marines for another twenty-two years. His service and love of country can best be summed up in his own words: "I am proud to be a citizen of a nation whose objective is peace and goodwill for all mankind. A nation which has contributed so much for the benefit of peoples all over the world. A nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all. I am proud to be an American. I can never believe it is old fashioned to love our Flag and Country nor can I ever believe it is being square to stand in readiness behind our Flag to defend those ideals for which it stands against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

America owes Colonel Paige a debt of gratitude. His actions, the actions of a single Marine, most certainly turned the tide in the Pacific Conflict during World War II. His actions saved countless lives of American servicemen and his actions quite literally won the War. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the life of a man who lived with valor and honor, a man who loved his country and fought bravely defending her, a man who was a patriot and an American Hero, Marine Colonel Mitchell Paige.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes due to a personal matter that kept me at home. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 620, on S.J. Res. 22, recognizing the Agriculture Research Service of the Department of Agriculture, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 621, on S.J. Res. 18, commending the Inspectors General, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 622, on H. Con. Res. 299, honoring Mr. Sargent Shriver, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 623, on the motion to change the convening time, I would have voted "yes."

COMMENDING THE RECORDING
ACADEMY ON THE ANNOUNCE-
MENT OF ITS CULTURAL POLICY
INITIATIVE

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, also known as the Recording Academy, on the announcement of the GRAMMY Cultural Policy Initiative.

The Recording Academy is dedicated to improving the quality of life and cultural condition for music and those who make it. An organization of 18,000 musicians, songwriters, producers and other recording professionals, the Recording Academy is internationally known for the GRAMMY Awards, and is responsible for numerous groundbreaking outreach, professional development, cultural enrichment, education and human services programs.

An outstanding example of the Recording Academy's commitment to music is the National Recording Registry at the Library of Congress. It was an honor for me to be a sponsor with Representative STENY HOYER of the National Recording Preservation Act of 2000 which established the registry. The Recording Academy now works with the Library of Congress to ensure the preservation of our national audio heritage for the enjoyment and education of generations to come. As a result of these efforts the National Recording Registry at the Library of Congress includes early recordings by ragtime composer Scott Joplin, inventor Thomas Edison, and singer Bessie Smith, plus more recent works by Bob Dylan, Aretha Franklin, and Frank Sinatra.

The first 50 recordings in the National Recording Registry truly represent the breadth and brilliance of our recorded heritage in both music and the spoken word, and each year more landmark recordings will be preserved and protected through their addition to the Registry.

To further advance its cultural mission, the Recording Academy unveiled its GRAMMY Cultural Policy Initiative on September 17 in Washington. Neil Portnow, President of the Recording Academy, launched this Initiative on behalf of NARAS to advance the rights of recording artists through advocacy, education and dialogue. Coordinated by Daryl Friedman, Senior Executive Director of the Washington office of the Recording Academy, the advocacy team will utilize its chapters and membership nationwide to educate the public through seminars and other grassroots events.

The Academy is also set to launch the GRAMMY Town Hall, a nationwide series of discussions with music industry leaders on critical issues such as file sharing, copyright protection, and intellectual property.

Mr. Speaker, the importance of music to my life and to the lives of people around the world cannot be overstated. Music transcends borders and breaks down cultural barriers. Young

Americans reap the lifetime benefits from music instruction in our schools. Music creates timeless memories. Music strikes a chord in all of us.

We must also recognize the economic impact of music. One of the bright spots of the U.S. trade economy is our recording industry. Recorded music generates a trade surplus for our nation and is one of America's leading exports, touching virtually every nation on the planet.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Portnow, Mr. Friedman and Recording Academy Chairman Dan Carlin for launching this important initiative.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, in order to deal with the recent floods that struck the Lynwood, South Gate, Watts, and Willowbrook areas of my district, I was absent for rollcall vote 620 on S.J. Res. 22, recognizing the Agricultural Research Service; rollcall vote 621 on S.J. Res. 18, commending the service of Inspectors General; rollcall vote 622 on H. Con. Res. 299, honoring Sargent Shriver; and rollcall vote 623 on the motion to change the meeting times for Tuesday, November 18, 2003, to 10 a.m. for Morning Hour and 11 a.m. for legislative business.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each of these rollcall votes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to official business in my district, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 620, "yes"; rollcall No. 621, "yes"; rollcall No. 622, "yes"; and rollcall No. 623, "yes."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 23RD STREET ASSOCIATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 23rd Street Association on the occasion of their Annual Award Luncheon. This year, the 23rd Street Association is honoring Cushman & Wakefield and Kenneth Krasnow for their dedication and service to the community.

Named New York Top Tenant-Rep Firm on Co-Star's Top 50 Manhattan Office Leases list, Cushman & Wakefield is the largest New York-based commercial real estate firm, rep-

resenting tenants in three of the city's top 10 deals last year. The firm's retail brokers have also won the coveted Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY) Retail Deal of the Year Award every year since the award's inception. Cushman & Wakefield is New York City's largest property manager, managing approximately 52 million square feet of property. Founded in New York City in 1917, Cushman & Wakefield now operates 163 offices in 49 countries and employs over 11,000 professionals.

Ken Krasnow, Senior Managing Director for the New York Metro Region, joined Cushman & Wakefield in 1987 and spent ten years as a commercial leasing broker in Midtown Manhattan. Mr. Krasnow rose through the ranks, serving as Director of Business Development and Regional Managing Director for Cushman & Wakefield's Stamford and Long Island offices before his promotion to Senior Managing Director. Mr. Krasnow has responsibility for the firm's offices in midtown and downtown Manhattan, White Plains, NY, Stamford, CT, and Melville, Long Island, with approximately 175 brokers generating \$200 million in annual revenue. Recently named one of Real Estate New York's "40 under 40" and one of Real Estate Forum's "next great leaders," Mr. Krasnow is responsible for the strategic direction, business growth and development at Cushman & Wakefield as well as profitability of the region for the firm.

Despite his heavy business obligations, Mr. Krasnow has made time for civic and charitable works. He is active in numerous organizations, including REBNY, YM/WREA and the Westchester County Association, and serves as a member of the boards of the National Conference for Community and Justice, St. Mary's Foundation for Children and the Avenue of the Americas Association.

I would also like to commend the 23rd Street Association for its success in enhancing the quality of life for families and businesses in the area bounded by the Hudson and East Rivers from 17th to 28th Street. Incorporated in 1929 by 22 local business people, today's 23rd Street Association has approximately 300 members. Their projects include conducting business-training programs in local junior high schools, mobilizing the community to support a \$2.5 million renovation of Madison Square Park, working with the local police to combat drug dealing and other crime, and developing annual summertime concert programming and children's entertainment in the community.

The Association is fortunate to represent individuals and organizations that are so committed to the advancement of their community. In recognition of the invaluable contributions and the selfless efforts of tonight's honorees, I ask that my colleagues join me in saluting the 23rd Street Association on 74 extraordinary years of service to the community.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 1904, HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT OF 2003

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with my colleague, the Honorable BART-

LETT in asking the members appointed as conferees of H.R. 1904 to preserve the language, approved by our Senate colleagues, enhancing the penalties for interstate commerce in cockfighting and dog fighting. Our freestanding legislation (H.R. 1532), which I have co-sponsored with Mr. BARTLETT, already has the bipartisan support of 122 cosponsors, and we are confident of the strong support for this legislation in the House. The House has also previously approved an amendment to the farm bill that covered the core provision of our legislation: increasing the maximum jail time to allow for the imposition of felony-level penalties for violations of Section 26 of the Animal Welfare Act.

We are not aware of any organizational opposition to the legislation, except from groups and individuals directly involved in dogfighting and cockfighting activities. On the other hand, we have secured endorsements from a wide range of veterinary, animal welfare, agricultural, and law enforcement organizations. In fact, more than 80 state and local law enforcement agencies have endorsed this legislation, as a necessary complement to their law enforcement efforts.

We believe that animal welfare warrants passage of the legislation. Both dogfighting and cockfighting involve animals pumped up with stimulants to make them more aggressive, whose handlers force them to keep fighting even as they suffer terrible injuries. Children are often exposed to these violent spectacles and taught that such animal suffering is enjoyable entertainment. Some dogfighters steal family pets to use as bait for training their dogs. Others abandon their fighting dogs, leaving them to roam and wreak havoc in our neighborhoods, or end up at animal shelters where they cannot be adopted due to their aggressive training. All in all, animal fighting is a brutal business that merits serious penalties.

However, there is also an economic reason to enact this legislation. In the fall of 2002, there was an outbreak of Exotic Newcastle Disease in southern California. The California state veterinarian has documented that the network of cockfighting enthusiasts in the Southwest was primarily responsible for the dramatic spread of this avian disease—which resulted in quarantines in California, Arizona, Nevada and Texas, and an extreme disruption of normal agricultural practices. Before the containment effort was completed, the federal government spent \$200 million on containment and compensation, and ordered the killing of 3.8 million birds, primarily from commercial poultry operations. As a result, the Texas Poultry Federation and other agricultural organizations have embraced our legislation. By increasing the penalties for animal fighting, we may be able to shrink the size of the cockfighting industry and prevent future outbreaks of END, or other diseases that jeopardize our agriculture industry.

I thank the conferees for their consideration and hope that they will agree to include the Senate-passed animal fighting provisions in the final Healthy Forests legislation.

A BILL TO EXPAND THE TAX BENEFITS FOR THE NEW YORK LIBERTY ZONE

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by my colleague from New York, Mr. RANGEL, in introducing a bill to extend the period that the New York Liberty Zone bonds can be issued by New York State and New York City, and to make other changes that would enhance the tax provisions that were included in the original New York Liberty Zone Benefits legislation. The provisions were part of the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002, enacted on March 9, 2002, in order to aid in the rebuilding of downtown New York City after the devastation caused by the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack.

A loud thank you to the Congress for passing the original legislation. The benefits contained in the package were important and needed. The Liberty bonds have been an invaluable tool for those developments already assisted. They have been utilized, but not to the full extent, primarily due to the economic downturn that was underway and accelerated after the tragedy. While the market for new commercial real estate has been weak, it is estimated the bond allocation for residential projects will be exhausted by the end of next year.

The changes requested include: (1) extend the Liberty bonds expiration date to December 31, 2009 from December 31, 2004 to reflect a more realistic time line for the recovery of the commercial real estate market in New York City, (2) increase the amount of the Liberty bonds that can be used for residential development projects from \$1.6 billion to \$3.0 billion to provide more flexibility to accommodate greater than expected demand for new housing in Lower Manhattan, (3) eliminate the 100,000 square foot minimum for non-public utility projects outside the Liberty Zone, which has greatly hindered the development of much needed smaller utility projects, and (4) a technical correction to Section 1400L(c), which would permit eligible entities to "opt out" of the mandatory provision stating that taxpayers must depreciate their Liberty Zone leasehold improvements over an accelerated five year term. The latter change would be retroactive and would be consistent with other similar accelerated depreciation laws, and allows taxpayers to depreciate property over the normal depreciation period.

These changes are in the spirit of the original legislation. They merely reflect the different conditions, which exist now that did not exist in March of 2002. So in essence, we believe they are important to the recovery of New York City. They will help to ensure the full utilization of the tax benefits provided in the original Liberty Zone legislation. We urge our colleagues to support this important legislation.

HONORING THE GRAND OPENING OF EXCHANGE CITY—NEW ORLEANS

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the grand opening of Exchange City—New Orleans, which took place on November 5th, 2003 at the City Park Campus of Delgado Community College. Through the partnership of Junior Achievement and the Learning Exchange, every fifth grade student in a 12-parish area of Southeast Louisiana will have the opportunity to experience first-hand how our American free enterprise system works and the effects of the economy on their everyday lives.

As the first Exchange City in Louisiana and the 18th Junior Achievement Exchange City in the United States, this 10,000 square foot indoor virtual city is equipped with sidewalks, a town square, a City Hall, and fourteen businesses. The Exchange City program includes a six-week curriculum covering English, Language Arts, Reading, Mathematics, Economics, Civics, and Data Analysis material. Fifth grade teachers will receive training on this curriculum and teach it to their students before their one-day visit to Exchange City.

During their one-day trip to Exchange City, students will elect a judge and a mayor to preside over their city. They will apply for jobs, receive pay checks, and take out loans to run their businesses. Students will operate a broadcast center with radio and television stations and learn about paying utility bills.

This innovative hands-on program is a wonderful opportunity for students in Southeast Louisiana to learn the importance of education. They will discover how the material they are learning in their classrooms directly applies to the real world. I commend Junior Achievement and all supporters of Exchange City—New Orleans for providing our children with such an outstanding and practical educational experience.

**ARMED FORCES RELIEF TRUST
PSA PROGRAM**

HON. FRANK PALLONE JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a program that provides an important service to the men and women serving in our military.

With our armed forces deployed for extended tours of duty in both Iraq and Afghanistan, the pressures placed on family members left behind can be enormous. The longer our fighting men and women are stationed abroad, the more these needs continue to escalate.

Today, more than 140,000 troops are fighting the war on terrorism in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and around the world.

Many of our brave men and women have now been deployed much longer than expected. Some active units served in Afghanistan, returned home for six months, and were immediately re-deployed to Iraq. In many

cases, a sole breadwinner is deployed, making it difficult on their family left behind to cope with medical bills or other unexpected expenses.

Today, I would like to recognize an effort undertaken by local radio and television stations to help address these issues. The National Association of Broadcasters is leading its local television and radio stations in a partnership with the Armed Forces Relief Trust to raise funds for military families in need.

By producing, distributing and airing radio and television Public Service Announcements, the NAB and its radio and television broadcast members are helping raise funds for those military families in need.

Last year, the four emergency assistance programs representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps distributed more than \$109 million in interest-free loans and grants to military families. Now that the four programs have combined efforts in one Trust, and more importantly, now that the trust is receiving generous access to the airwaves to get out its message, they will undoubtedly be able to provide even more assistance.

Mr. Speaker, all of us count on our service people who are far from home protecting us. Their families are enduring enough hardship in waiting for them to return. It is incumbent upon all of us to ensure their families do not want financially during this most difficult time.

I would like to compliment the local radio and television stations that are involved in this effort. As small business people, they are dedicating a valuable resource—airtime—to a timely and important cause. I salute their efforts.

H. CON. RES. 288, HONORING SEEDS OF PEACE FOR ITS PROMOTION OF UNDERSTANDING, RECONCILIATION, ACCEPTANCE, COEXISTENCE, AND PEACE AMONG YOUTH FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND OTHER REGIONS OF CONFLICT

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 288, Honoring Seeds of Peace for its promotion of understanding, reconciliation, acceptance, coexistence, and peace among youth from the Middle East and other regions of conflict.

I am a strong supporter of Seeds of Peace, which brings youngsters from conflict areas together to literally sow the seeds of peace and to develop the next generation of leaders. I have had the privilege of working with Seeds of Peace during my time in Congress and have seen the benefits of this program.

During July, Seeds of Peace had a breakfast in Congress and I was able to participate and eat with several campers. During the breakfast I had the opportunity to speak with several second year campers. Two of these campers were an Israeli and a Palestinian, these two boys had become close friends and they told me that regardless of the violence going on around them at home they still made efforts to see each other.

They told me about the difficulties they sometimes faced when security was tight entering Israel but they still made their efforts to

stay in contact. The boys told me that while they don't agree on everything they still work together to find a solution to whatever problem may arise, they are able to work it out.

Mr. Speaker, whether they are Arab or Jew, Greek or Turkish, Protestant or Catholic, Indian or Pakistani, bringing people together will achieve a lasting return in understanding and toleration.

I firmly believe that by working together, conflict can be overcome. The United States Congress, and our country should continue to support these people to people partnerships, which lay the groundwork for cooperation, co-existence and ultimately peace in the future.

TRIBUTE TO FRED AND ROXY
LIGRANI

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Fred and Roxy Ligrani of Grand Junction, Colorado. As farmers, Fred and Roxy have spent six decades working tirelessly to feed their fellow countrymen. They are making a difference in their community and touching the lives of their many neighbors in the Grand Valley. I would like to honor their accomplishments today before this body of Congress and this nation.

For the Ligrani brothers, farming runs in their blood; they grew up tending vegetables. Fred and Roxy's grandfather, Rocco, bought land in Grand Junction and developed it as a homestead in 1906. Respect and appreciation for the land, as well as knowledge of how best to cultivate it, are a rich heritage that the Ligrani family passes on from generation to generation.

Fred and Roxy's dedication to farming is evident from their customer's loyalty. The Ligranis have been recognized by American Vegetable Grower Magazine three times in the past. Even as the Grand Valley becomes urbanized, the Ligrani brothers remain focused on producing quality produce. They have maintained this dedication for 60 years.

Mr. Speaker, Fred and Roxy Ligrani have shown an extraordinary dedication to the citizens of Grand Junction. Their strenuous efforts offer hope to a world that is increasingly dependent on technology. These two talented and determined men are a shining example of the rewards of hard work and perseverance. It is my great honor to recognize the Ligranis before this body of Congress and this nation today. I wish them all the best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CHARLES P.
IVERSEN

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to an exceptional individual who I have long been proud to call my friend, Mr. Charles P. Iversen. On Friday, November 21, 2003, members of the Plumber's Union Local No. 14 will celebrate Charlie Iversen's

retirement from the union by coming together to pay tribute to Charlie and his lifelong commitment to and leadership in the labor movement.

Over the past 45 years, Charlie Iversen has worked tirelessly on behalf of the men, women, and families in Plumber's Local No. 14. Using his administrative experience and talent for creative leadership to greatly improve the work environment and expand the business interests for plumbers throughout Northern New Jersey, Charlie has left an indelible mark on the lives of many, demonstrating the positive difference that a single person can make. It is therefore only fitting that he be recognized in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth.

In 1955, Charlie Iversen embarked upon what would become a distinguished career in the field of plumbing engineering when he took a position with William Zabransky Jr., Inc. During his time in the employ of William Zabransky, Charlie joined Local No. 326 as an Apprentice, and pursued certification in a UA Training Program at Purdue University. Upon his graduation from Purdue, he became an instructor at Plumber's Local No. 14 Training School while continuing to augment his own personal education at Kean College, Rutgers University, William Paterson College, and Fairleigh Dickinson University.

In 1982, after 27 years as an esteemed employee of William Zabransky, Jr., Inc., Charlie was elected to the position of Business Agent of Plumber's Local No. 14. In this capacity, Charlie exhibited his diligence as an administrator and his boundless enthusiasm as a spokesman for the business interests of Local No. 14, leading him to be named the Union's Business Manager/ Administrator in 1996.

Perhaps most inspiring is the way in which Charlie Iversen has balanced his love for his work with his interest in furthering the cause of the labor movement. As an active member of the American Society of Plumbing Engineers, a former Vice President of the New Jersey State Association of Pipe Trades, a Trustee of Plumber's Local No. 14 Pension, Welfare, Education, and Annuity Funds, and a Treasurer of Local No. 14's Political Action Committee, Charlie has worked hard to ensure that members of Local No. 14 receive the representation and benefits that they deserve. Through word and deed, Charlie has spent the last 45 years demonstrating that the only real success in life comes from a whole-hearted commitment to serving the members of the community in which you live and work.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the extraordinary efforts of individuals like Charlie Iversen. I ask that you join our colleagues, the members of the Plumber's Union Local No. 14, Charlie's family and friends, and me in recognizing Charles P. Iversen for his outstanding service to the families of Local 14.

TRIBUTE TO THE ALTOONA
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Altoona Symphony Orchestra

on its 75th Anniversary and to thank the organization for the high-quality music with which it has provided its community.

The Gearhart String Ensemble was founded in the early years of the twentieth century upon the tradition of the early railroad bands and orchestras that were abundant throughout central Pennsylvania at that time. In 1928, the then strictly volunteer orchestra compiled of 24 musicians made its debut under the direction of Russell Gearhart. Since then, it has grown to employ more than 75 musicians and was renamed the Altoona Symphony Orchestra.

Although 75 years have passed, the orchestra maintains its youthful fervor with its diverse repertoire and inspiring attitude. The constantly changing roster of nationally and internationally renowned guest artists renders a different sound for every concert, keeping the audience attentive and entertained. With this vast array of musical talent, the symphony orchestra provides an invaluable cultural experience to the communities of Central Pennsylvania through its mastery of classical music pieces.

The orchestra continues to produce music that rivals the masterful and highly acclaimed sound of the Boston Pops, and is recognized as one of the outstanding Pennsylvania symphony orchestras. As a result of the dedicated, hard work of its Board of Trustees, the orchestra has progressed immensely, and it will undoubtedly continue to do so under its guidance and leadership. I congratulate the Altoona Symphony Orchestra on a wonderful 75 years and look forward to its sounds of tomorrow.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber on November 17, 2003. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 620, 621, 622 and 623.

HONORING SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
FIRE FIGHTERS

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the courage of fire fighters from Los Angeles County Fire Department. Firefighters in my community, from the cities of Azusa, Baldwin Park, Bradbury, Claremont, Covina, Duarte, El Monte, Glendora, Irwindale, Rosemead, San Dimas, South El Monte, Temple and Unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County, fought the fires and saved the lives and homes of countless people. Had it not been for the rapid response and bravery of firefighters, the loss of life, the damage to residents, housing, and commercial property would have been much worse.

I am hopeful that if we learn one lesson from this horrible disaster, it will be that more

financial resources need to go towards helping fire departments protect people. According to the Forest Service, more than 90 percent of wild land fires are the result of human activity, and fires are almost twice as likely to start near roads than in the wilderness.

Even though they are adjacent to some of America's largest communities, Southern California forests only receive a fraction of the money they need to manage fire every year. Last year, Southern California forests received only \$4 million out of the \$53 million spent on California fire reduction—a mere 8 percent of the fire funding distributed to California's National Forests.

The Southern California fires demonstrate that the federal government must spend its fire management dollars near communities. Firefighters should not be put in harms way when we can prevent future tragedies by making communities near forest areas.

Our Nation is blessed with brave men and women who protect our homeland from every potential danger and the risk of their own safety to demonstrate their commitment to the state of California. They are true American heroes and I thank them on behalf of my constituents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make a clarification to my voting record. I returned early this morning from a Congressional Delegation trip to Iraq. Unfortunately, while I was away, I was unable to cast a recorded vote on three measures passed yesterday. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of:

S.J. Res. 22—A resolution recognizing the Agriculture Research Service of the Dept of Agriculture.

S.J. Res. 18—A resolution commending the Inspectors General.

H. Con. Res. 299—Honoring Mr. Sargent Shriver.

SENSE OF THE CONGRESS RESOLUTION TO COMBAT OBSTETRIC FISTULA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce a Sense of the Congress resolution which will draw attention to a tragedy which affects thousands of women around the world each year.

Obstetric fistula is a major pregnancy-related complication. It occurs when a woman is in obstructed and prolonged labor without medical help. The prolonged pressure of the baby's head against the mother's pelvis cuts off the blood supply to the soft tissues surrounding her bladder, rectum, and vagina. Because of the prolonged and difficult labor, the baby usually dies. However, if the mother survives, the physical and emotional con-

sequences are devastating. The injured tissue soon rots away, leaving a perforation, or fistula which causes the woman to lose control over urination and/or bowel function. Because of a lack of understanding about the cause and treatment of fistulas, women who are fistula sufferers are often abandoned by their husbands, forced out of their homes, and ostracized by family.

Although currently virtually unknown in the western world, fistulas were once common in the United States and Europe before the advent of widespread maternal healthcare and hospital births. The current estimates of one million fistula sufferers may be very conservative. Actual sufferers may number over 3 million throughout the developing world. This suffering can be readily ameliorated with reconstructive surgery. Fistula surgical repair has up to a 90 percent success rate and ranges in cost from \$100–\$400. Although this surgery is inexpensive by American standards, for women in the developing world, this cost is prohibitive. Even if the surgery is affordable, many women in developing countries are either unaware of treatment options or unable to access treatment.

A recent report, *Obstetric Fistula Needs Assessment: Findings from Nine African Countries*, commissioned by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) details fistula occurrence in nine countries in sub-Saharan Africa: Benin, Chad, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia. There are currently 35 hospitals in the aforementioned countries which have the capacity to conduct fistula surgery, but are without the financial resources.

The United States House of Representatives should address this issue. To that end, I am introducing a Sense of the Congress Resolution which acknowledges the need of the U.S. government to take steps to end the needless suffering of these women.

I request that my colleagues support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO THE HUNTINGDON LADY BEARCATS

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Huntingdon Lady Bearcats on their PIAA, Class AA volleyball State championship.

The Bearcats overcame the odds against them and handily defeated their competition in the tournament. United behind their strong coach, Priscilla Gibboney, the high school girls got everyone involved in each match, allowing the underestimated team to hand out losses to taller, more experienced opponents.

The Huntingdon Lady Bearcats have claimed two team State championship titles in the school's history, which is a great testimony to the unique character of this team. They fought through obstacles and kept their composure, and their unwillingness to quit led to their perseverance. I congratulate the Huntingdon Lady Bearcats on their State championship and I look forward to hearing of their continued success in next year's season.

Led by head coach Priscilla Gibboney and assistant coach David Kemp, the 13 members

of this championship team include Seniors Tara McMinn (Captain), Megan Goss, Laura Madden, Meredith Orr, Katie Criswell, Jordan Rackley, and Sara Kaylor; Juniors Hadley Hammers, Bethany Kozak, and Jenna Sheffield; Sophomores Olivia Hallahan and Emily Kemp; and Freshman Greta Gibboney. Congratulations one and all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was tending to official business and was not present for Roll Call Votes 620 through 623. The votes were on Senate Joint Resolutions 22 and 18, House Concurrent Resolution 299, and on a motion to the meeting time of the House, respectively. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on these measures.

TRIBUTE TO MOTHER ESSIE BAXTER JONES

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mother Essie Baxter Jones, for her 100th birthday celebration.

Mother Essie Baxter Jones was born the third of nine children on March 23, 1903 in Kilgore, Texas, Gregg County, Route 1. In 1903, Route 1 was simply a horse and buggy trail; today, it is a superhighway, Highway 1252. Growing up, she worked on a farm where she learned about growing cotton, corn, peanuts, white potatoes, sweet potatoes and watermelons, and also helped her father build churches throughout the community.

Later on, she operated a successful family store and café for those who came to work in the oil fields in Kilgore and afterward built her own café in Odessa, Texas. She also worked in the defense industry sewing tents and cooking for the soldiers in Waco, Texas.

Having moved here in 1963, Mother Essie Baxter Jones has been a resident of San Jose, California for 40 years and, throughout that time, she has been actively involved in the community, including her work in the Prayer Garden Church of God in Christ and Templo Juan 3:16 in San Jose, California.

Her "secrets" for lifelong happiness are: "Honor, obey and respect your mother and father; trust in the Lord and obey His Word; deal fairly with everyone; and save some of the money that you earn."

I want to thank Mother Essie Baxter Jones for her many years of service to our community and congratulate her on this milestone birthday, her 100th. Much has changed for the better during her lifetime and she contributed to the positive changes. May God bless her with years of happiness and service.

CONGRATULATING UF'S WOMEN'S
TENNIS TEAM

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the 2003 University of Florida women's tennis team, for achieving the highest honor in collegiate play, the NCAA title. The Gators upset the top-ranked and two time defending champion Stanford in front of a spirited sellout crowd at Linder Stadium at Ring Tennis Complex in Gainesville, Florida.

This week the University of Florida women's tennis team has been invited to The White House to participate in the 2003 NCAA Spring Sports Championship Day, recognizing the NCAA team champions from the 2003 spring season. The 2003 Gator team will be UF's fourth national championship team to visit The White House, joining the 1996 football team, the 1998 soccer and 1998 women's tennis teams. I congratulate the Women's Tennis Team on their exceptional 2003 season and wish them the best of luck in 2004. Go Gators!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber on May 13, 2003. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 183, 184, and 185. On May 19, 2003, I was also unavoidably absent from this Chamber. I would like the record to show that had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 192, 193, and 194. Furthermore, I was absent from this Chamber on May 23, 2003, and had I been present in this Chamber, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 226.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARGARET
ALLEN, DR. RAMONCITA (RAYE)
MAESTAS, AND DR. CHRISTINE
SURAWICZ

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three outstanding physicians, Dr. Margaret Allen, Dr. Ramoncita (Raye) Maestas, and Dr. Christine Surawicz, who have been nominated for the Local Legends project, sponsored by the American Medical Women's Association and the National Library of Medicine, to celebrate the lives and achievements of America's women physicians around the country.

Dr. Allen currently is Medical Director at the Hope Heart Institute in Seattle, where she conducts promising research on tissue repair and remodeling in cardiovascular disease, and cardiovascular gene therapy.

Dr. Allen is a pioneer in the field of cardiovascular disease. A cardiothoracic surgeon by training, she was recruited in 1985 by the University of Washington to develop and head its cardiac transplant service. This program received accreditation under Dr. Allen's leadership, and it has been a strong regional asset for many years. Dr. Allen served as director of the program from 1985 to 1996, and also directed the Pediatric Cardiac Transplant Program at Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center.

Dr. Allen has been active in numerous professional and non-profit organizations throughout her career. Among other positions, she has served as President of the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). Dr. Allen has worked diligently to improve access to organ transplantation and to diminish disparities in access across communities.

Dr. Maestas is a family physician at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, and a member of the faculty at the University of Washington School of Medicine. Dr. Maestas has dedicated her professional career to caring for the medically underserved. Following her residency, Dr. Maestas practiced at the SeaMar Clinic, a federally qualified health center serving a largely Hispanic population. She then practiced and taught at the Providence Family Practice Residency Program within the Providence health care system, which has a long history of charitable care in the Seattle area. Her current practice site, the Harborview Medical Center, provides much of the safety net care to Seattle and King County residents.

Dr. Maestas is a distinguished educator. She serves on the faculty at Providence and the University of Washington, and is a leader in developing the new medical school curriculum at the University of Washington. Dr. Maestas also has made significant contributions to the community. Her prominent work on issues of domestic violence and cultural competency has gained her national recognition.

Dr. Surawicz is a gastroenterologist and faculty member at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle. Dr. Surawicz has distinguished herself as a clinician, educator, researcher and administrator throughout her career at the University of Washington. She has directed the Gastroenterology Department since 1981, and since 1993 has served as Section Chief of Gastroenterology at Harborview Medical Center, which serves Seattle and King County. In 2002, Dr. Surawicz was appointed Assistant Dean for Faculty Development in the School of Medicine, a measure of the regard for her leadership among her peers.

Dr. Surawicz is widely recognized in her field of gastroenterology. She has published extensively in national and international peer-reviewed journals, and has held several board-level positions in national organizations, including service as President of the American College of Gastroenterology, and as Chair of the FDA's Gastrointestinal Drug Advisory Council.

I am honored to announce the selection of these physicians, nominated by their peers, each of whom has made significant contributions to her field of medicine and to her community. These extraordinary women are to be congratulated for their years of dedication and hard work. I ask my colleagues to join me today saluting Dr. Margaret Allen, Dr.

Ramoncita (Raye) Maestas, and Dr. Christine Surawicz for their service and commitment to their profession and to our community.

CHARITABLE GIVING ACT, H.R. 7

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, why are we holding the poor hostage?

Earlier this year, both the House and the Senate overwhelmingly passed legislation that would provide non-itemizers the ability to claim a tax deduction for charitable giving. Yet here we are nearing the end of this session, and have yet to see a conference committee take up the legislation. Instead we have seen a great deal of negative rhetoric designed not to help the poor of our nations, but to advance individual political goals.

The money for social services needs to get into the hands of the men and women who are making the biggest impact on the lives of their communities. If we in Congress are to be good stewards of the public trust, we have to be certain that the money we dedicate for social services goes into the hands of the most effective organizations. To do otherwise would be a violation of the public's trust in us.

What we are talking about with the Charitable Giving Act, however, is not a case where we as the Congress have to make a decision about where the money should go. This legislation allows individuals across the nation to make those decisions. Who better to identify a community's needs, and the organizations that are most effectively addressing those needs, than the men and women who live and work in that community? I believe that the best way we can help the faith-based and community organizations who need financial assistance is to encourage private sector philanthropy for all individuals who contribute to charitable organizations, not just for those who itemize their tax returns. Approximately two-thirds of tax returns filed do not claim itemized deductions; therefore those individuals are unable to deduct their charitable giving. The majority of non-itemizers are low- and middle-income taxpayers. These are the very taxpayers who would benefit from the Charitable Giving Act, and these are the very people are our best indicator of the effectiveness of an organization.

This legislation also has included a \$150 million authorization for the Compassion Capital Fund. This authorization recognizes the unique contributions of smaller community and faith-based service organizations by making it possible for these organizations to obtain a grant that they can use to expand their impact on their neighborhoods. Many of our neighborhood service organizations do not possess the capacity to manage a million dollar grant. This does not mean that these smaller organizations are not effective. On the contrary, they may be the best organizations in town. Through the Compassion Capital Fund, intermediaries are able to issue smaller grants, and provide technical assistance that will allow more organizations the ability to increase their services to the poor.

The Charitable Giving Act contains, in large part, what I believe are the most significant ways the Federal Government can lend its

support to social service organizations across the country. The government can be helpful in alleviating some of the problems facing our communities today, but we will never have enough resources to help everyone. We need to team up with faith-based and community organizations of all types to ensure that no matter how serious a person's need, they will have someplace to go for help. That place could be the local government agency, it could be the local church, or a community center. Partisan debate, while very entertaining, will not ultimately help the poor and hurting. Passing this legislation will. We all need to work together for the greater good by dropping the rhetorical bickering and get this legislation to the President's desk.

HONORING ROBERT "BOBBY"
MCDONNELL

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great personal sadness that I pay final tribute to a good friend and a great leader in the San Francisco community—Robert "Bobby" McDonnell—who died on August 17th. His extraordinary work in the labor movement and in the community earned him the respect and appreciation of the City of San Francisco.

A native San Franciscan, Bobby graduated from Marin Catholic High School and attended the College of Marin and the University of San Francisco. Bobby McDonnell had a long and distinguished career dedicated to the working men and women of the San Francisco Bay Area. He served as Field Representative and as Secretary-Treasurer for the Laborers' International Union of America, AFL-CIO, Local 261 from 1968 to 1999. He was an Executive Board Member of the San Francisco Labor Council, and also a member of the San Francisco Building and Trades Council. His fierce commitment to the labor movement never ceased, and he advocated labor issues at every opportunity from coast to coast.

He was a member of the Golden Gate Bridge District's Board of Directors from 1984 until the time of his death, where he worked tirelessly to maintain a great public agency. His achievements during his long tenure are too many to list, but in all his endeavors, he served with passion, integrity and excellence.

He was a devoted and enthusiastic godfather to St. Vincent's School for Boys. He unselfishly worked as a volunteer, organizer and fundraiser not only for St. Vincent's, but also the United Way, the United Irish Cultural Center and the Amigos of Central Latino. One of his favorite activities was playing Santa Claus for the different organizations where he volunteered. It was a perfect job for him, because those who knew him say he spread joy and humor wherever he went.

To his wife Mary, his brother Danny, his stepsons Jerry, Michael, David and Harry, I extend my deepest sympathy and my profound appreciation for your sharing Bobby with us. We miss him greatly.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL
DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the month of November as National Diabetes Awareness Month.

An estimated 18.2 million people in the U.S., or 6.3 percent of the population have diabetes. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), while an estimated 13 million have been diagnosed with diabetes, 5.2 million do not even realize they are diabetics. The American Diabetes Association estimates the economic cost of diabetes in the U.S. in 2002 was \$132 billion, or one out of every 10 health care dollars spent.

Diabetes is the number one disease-related cause of death in Los Angeles County. In California, more than 1.4 million California adults and 12,000 adolescents have been diagnosed with diabetes. Among adults ages 50–64, diabetes prevalence was significantly higher among African Americans (20.5 percent) and Latinos (17.9 percent) than whites (8.3 percent). Additionally, 176,000 adolescents not diagnosed with diabetes were at risk because they did not participate in regular physical activity and were overweight or at risk for being overweight.

I have been active in the efforts to combat diabetes because I know the burdens it imposes on people and their families. I am a co-sponsor of the Diabetes Prevention Access and Care Act (H.R. 1916) which directs the National Institutes of Health to support research with respect to pre-diabetes and diabetes, particularly type II diabetes. This important legislation will help all Americans by providing much-needed diabetes prevention and outreach.

Although diabetes is an epidemic that is widespread, complicated, and severe, it can be controlled. Taking small steps like healthy diets and physical activity can lead to big rewards. Diabetes is a disease that permeates our communities, families, and friendships and we must do all that we can to stop the spread of this deadly disease.

TRIBUTE TO FIRST LIEUTENANT
TODD JASON BRYANT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district. Earlier this afternoon, I had the distinct honor to attend the funeral service for Todd Jason Bryant, First Lieutenant, United States Army at Arlington National Cemetery. Today I would ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to his country.

Todd was born on January 14, 1980, in Long Beach, California. Todd came from a military family and his desire and determination to join the military was resolute. He enlisted in the Army Reserve and completed Basic Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma before

his senior year of high school. He came to my office for an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. I was proud to nominate this ambitious young man who I knew would distinguish himself at West Point, just as he had done his whole life.

He interned in my office before his senior year at West Point and graduated with a degree in Political Science on June 1, 2002. He would often joke that he was going to run for my congressional seat someday—I have no doubt he would have succeeded. After graduation, Todd attended the Armor Officer's Basic Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky, graduating in December 2002. He reported to Fort Riley, Kansas in January 2003, and was initially assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st, Battalion 34th Armor Regiment where he served as an Assistant Operations Officer. In April of 2003, Todd was reassigned to C Company, 1–34 AR where he assumed duties as Platoon Leader, 3rd Platoon. On August 30, 2003, Todd and Jenifer Reardon were married in Pennsylvania, nine days before shipping out with his unit in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. On Friday, October 31, 2003, Todd was killed by an explosive device as his Humvee traveled on a road between Fallujah and Baghdad. He was 23 years old.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like Todd, who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. Today was probably the hardest day the Bryant family has ever faced and my thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice goes out to them. There are no words that can relieve their pain. Larry and Linda Bryant have raised an extraordinary family. Their oldest son, Tim is a Major in the Marines, their daughter, Tiffany, is a Captain in the Army and Todd, First Lieutenant in the United States Army, recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal Army Service Ribbon, Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart has been laid to rest in our country's most distinguished military cemetery.

His wife and family have all given a part of themselves today in the loss of their loved one and I hope they know that their son, the goodness he brought to this world and the sacrifice he has made, will not be forgotten.

MOURNING THE DEATH OF
CHARLEY SCHNEIDER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of a good friend and a pillar of the community in Southern Nevada, Charley Schneider. I had the privilege of working with Charley, and cannot do justice to what a great person and friend Charley was.

Charley Schneider was born in San Antonio, Texas in 1938, but moved to Basic, Nevada, as Henderson was known at the time, in 1949. He was a graduate of Basic High School and worked at Farmers Insurance for 33 years.

Charley was a wonderful person to work with, always willing to lend a hand, listen when you needed to talk to someone, and helped customers above and beyond the requirements of his job. Charley retired from Farmers 3 years ago, and looked forward to being able to spend more time with his wife Maggie and daughter Stevie. Sadly, Charley passed away last weekend at the age of 65. I urge all members of this House to join me in mourning the passing of Charley Schneider and extending our condolences to the family and friends who greatly loved him.

TRIBUTE TO THE MOUNTAIN
LODGE NO. 281, F.&A.M. AND THE
JUNIATA LODGE NO. 282, F.&A.M.

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mountain Lodge No. 281, F.&A.M. and the Juniata Lodge No. 282, F.&A.M. on their 150th Anniversary and to thank them for their service and dedication to their community.

From its home town of Edinburgh, England, the Honorable Fraternity of Freemasonry came to Pennsylvania in 1730 on a mission to spread the Masonic vision of a "Brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God." Out of this need for brotherhood, the Mountain Lodge and Juniata Lodge were founded on December 8, 1853. Since that date these two lodges have consistently exhibited the qualities to which they are committed, sharing with their community a moral code based upon honesty, strength of character, and the highest standard of ethics.

The Freemasons lead their communities by the example that they set in their own lives as they work to uphold the very pillars of the American society. Each Freemason is taught to be true, the crucial attribute that provides the basis for all virtues of man, and to maintain a devotion to spirituality and intellectual growth. Additionally, they bear a strong commitment to artistic and cultural excellence. While cultivating all of the above characteristics, a freemason's family values remain strong and devoted. These organizations have not only enriched the lives of their members, but of those in the surrounding communities who have undoubtedly benefitted from the charity, education and service that they have repeatedly provided.

This nation was built by a group of men, bound by brotherhood under the direction of God, who believed in the natural rights of freedom and democracy. The members of these Masonic lodges have worked daily for 150 years to preserve that "Brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God," and the standard of excellence upon which it was founded. The growing and active memberships of these organizations are a symbol of the community's devotion to success and the promise that is to come. As a proud member of the Juniata Lodge, I congratulate these two Masonic lodges on their 150th Anniversary and thank them for all their hard work and service.

NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS
MONTH

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, as you may know, November is National Family Caregivers Month, and I rise today to celebrate and honor our nation's caregivers. Nationwide, more than 25 million caregivers annually provide over \$200 billion in unpaid care to their loved ones with disabling and chronic conditions. More importantly, this voluntary care allows seniors and others to continue living at home, which improves their spirits and often speeds up recovery.

Family caregiving comes in many forms—from the mother raising a child with developmental disabilities and fighting for her child's right to an education, to the wife caring for her husband with Alzheimer's Disease and enduring that anguish. There are as many unique situations as there are family caregivers. But, what these caregivers all have in common is their compassion, their dedication and their selflessness. Family caregiving contributes to family stability, and it often spares families from more costly, out-of-home placements. These people are the quiet heroes of our nation. However, too often, they are also silent sufferers.

Most caregivers freely and willingly provide this care out of love and commitment, but often at great cost to themselves physically, emotionally, and financially. Studies show that many caregivers stretch themselves so thin that they jeopardize their own health and ability to provide continued care to their dependent loved ones.

In my home state of Rhode Island, Tracey Laranjo is the mother of ten-year-old Tyler. Tyler is bipolar and suffers from Severe Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and certain developmental disabilities. Tyler is also an important member of the Laranjo family—the gifts and the love he brings to his parents and older brother are not really different than any other ten year old. Tyler is a lucky child, with parents who have fought long and hard to get him the mental health services that he needs, while educating themselves about how to take care of their son. But not surprisingly, sometimes Tracey is exhausted. After a long wait, she was fortunate enough to recently access respite care services in Rhode Island and can now take an occasional break, knowing that her son is being properly cared for. She refers to these respite hours, 110 hours per year, as "gold"—saving them for times she knows she needs them, and grateful for every minute. These hours give Tracey time to recoup without feeling guilty, and let her reflect on the special child she has been blessed with.

Just a few hours of respite can go a long way in keeping a family together, keeping a child at home, and turning a situation where a vulnerable person was at risk of abuse into one where that same person feels loved, respected and valued. No family should ever be denied this kind of assistance.

However, the vast majority of family caregivers does not have access to respite, cannot afford it, cannot find qualified, trained respite services or providers, or do not qualify for ex-

isting respite benefits because they are not Medicaid eligible or do not meet the limited eligibility requirements of other narrowly-targeted state or federal programs. As we celebrate National Family Caregivers Month, we must remember that for a person providing intense and exhausting care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, an occasional short break can literally be a lifesaver.

In keeping with the Supreme Court's Olmstead decision requiring states to ensure that individuals with disabilities and chronic conditions are able to live and work in the least restrictive environment, respite provides the support caregivers need to avoid or delay institutional placements.

We can recognize and honor the nation's caregivers by passing the Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2003, which I introduced this spring. H.R. 1083 would authorize competitive grants to states and other eligible entities to make respite available and accessible to family caregivers, regardless of age or disability. This legislation would help states maximize use of existing resources and leverage new dollars by building on current services and systems that states already have in place. The bill would support planned and emergency respite, respite worker training and recruitment, caregiver training, and program evaluation.

The Senate has already passed the Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2003. I urge my colleagues to join the 85 bipartisan cosponsors of the House bill and ask that the House take immediate action to pass it in time to honor the nation's caregivers in celebration of National Family Caregivers Month.

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY, YOU'VE
GOT A FRIEND (OR 246) IN CON-
GRESS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today is a sad day in the history of Congress. Today one industry has hijacked a political party and that party has bulldozed a poor energy policy through this body.

The U.S. Congress is often held up and revered as the model of Democracy. Yet this bill has been bad news for Americans—and our form of government—from the start. First, the Administration, led by Vice President CHENEY, held secret meetings with energy industry insiders to determine what they wanted from an energy policy—what the energy industry wants should not be confused with what the nation needed from an energy policy. Next, after a heavy-handed process, a bill, H.R. 6, was passed in this body. The bill then moved into conference, at which point, the two Republican co-chairs decided that they would write the nation's energy policy by themselves with no input from Democrats, but with plenty of input from lobbyists looking out for their oil, gas and other energy industry clients. The energy bill went from bad to worse as, at the last minute, many sweetheart deals were added that had never been passed by either body. Never before has the energy industry had such a friend in the White House and such great friends in the Congress—we know now that GOP does indeed mean "Gas, Oil, and Petroleum".

Thus far, I have only addressed the problems with the process surrounding this bill. The problems with the policy are too numerous to name here, but I want to highlight some of the more outrageous:

It does not improve our energy security and does nothing to promote renewable energy sources. This bill funnels billions of dollars into the oil and gas industries, making us more dependent than ever on foreign sources for these resources. In fact, only 1/3 of the subsidies in this bill go toward promoting clean, renewable energy that we can find right here in the U.S.A. The policy before us today is stuck in the 20th century and does not take advantage of the advances in technology in the clean and renewable energy arena, and prefers to favor older, dirtier methods to generate our energy supply.

It does not protect our water from contaminants that can cause serious health problems. This bill actually protects MTBE (methyl tertiary butyl ether) producers from product liability suits. MTBE has been proven to be harmful to our health, yet this bill leaves the taxpayers to clean up the mess and lets the producers off scot-free. California, more than any other state has been affected by MTBE. In some cities, many of the drinking water wells are now unusable because of MTBE contamination.

It exempts the oil and gas construction activities from Clean Water Act controls on stormwater runoff. I introduced a motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 6 that would have struck language that gave oil and gas construction activities a free pass from controlling their stormwater runoff. This exemption makes them the only construction activity that does not have to take measures to ensure that runoff from their construction sites does not pollute our lakes, streams and rivers. Unfortunately, my motion did not pass and this harmful handout to the oil and gas industry remains.

It does not address the problems that caused the California Energy Crisis of 2000–2001. This bill does nothing to prevent the kind of market manipulation that caused energy prices to skyrocket in California. Even the most conservative estimates indicate that California lost over \$9 billion to this manipulation

by energy companies. This bill leaves California—and the rest of the Nation—without any protections against market manipulation.

It is for these reasons and many more that I cannot and will not support this awful bill. This bill has been bought and paid for by the energy industry—mostly the oil and gas industries. Unfortunately, all Americans will pay the price for this bad bill.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2003

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, the Energy Policy Act of 2003 that unfortunately passed this afternoon is a failure in process and policy.

The Republican majority squandered a historic opportunity to forge a truly bipartisan consensus that would meet the nation's immediate needs while expanding conservation and encouraging renewable energy to wean us from foreign oil.

The Republican majority has steamrolled concerns, facts, and opposition, all to benefit powerful energy industries at the expense of American people.

This bill not only fails to promote a healthy energy policy, it will also cost the American people over \$140 billion over the next decade.

These costs include industry subsidies, tax-breaks, authorizations for new government spending, and mandates that increase consumer prices for gasoline and electricity.

This legislation continues the Bush administration's rollbacks of environmental protections while steamrolling the public interest.

It was written for big energy companies by big energy companies to benefit big energy companies, with a \$16 billion package of tax breaks and production subsidies for the oil, coal, and nuclear industries.

Mr. Speaker, this bill threatens more than the pocketbooks of the American people, it also poses an imminent threat to our Nation's air quality, drinking water, and public lands.

We see this threat to our public health most clearly in my home State of California.

MTBE, a known cause of cancer, is leaking out of storage tanks, but this bill shields MTBE producers and oil companies from product liability lawsuits and pays them \$2 billion.

This gasoline additive, intended to reduce air pollution, has contaminated groundwater supplies in numerous California communities.

In addition to weakening clean water protections, this bill will crack open the door for offshore drilling by shifting control of projects off California's coastline toward the Federal Government.

It also requires a faster permitting process and the easing of some environmental rules to promote energy development on public lands.

This bill will cause catastrophic harm to the public health and the public interest.

This bill is a total failure based on tax-breaks and subsidies alone.

What makes this bill even more difficult to stomach is the possibility of what could have been.

This bill does not, for example, provide a clear direction for the development of the electricity grid.

This bill also does not encourage the U.S. car industry to manufacture vehicles that consume less fuel and produce fewer pollutants.

Additionally, this bill does not significantly encourage energy conservation and it does nothing to wean this country from oil and gas imports.

Tragically, America needs a new energy policy. Just not this one.

We need an energy bill that would remove subsidies and market distortions.

We need a progressive energy policy that would invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy sources instead of fossil fuels. Such a policy would create four times as many jobs without adding to the deficit, burdening taxpayers, or poisoning our air and water.

I strongly opposed this bill because of its complete failure to protect America's environment, protect America's health, and protect American taxpayers.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this infor-

mation, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2003 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 21

9 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of James C. Oberwetter, of Texas,

to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

SD-419

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Steven J. Law, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor.

SD-430

NOVEMBER 24

10 a.m.

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226