

working-age people with a disability are employed. Today, people with disabilities are three times more likely than those without disabilities to live in poverty. There is much progress still to be made.

Unfortunately, in recent years the federal courts have narrowly interpreted the ADA and have not enforced key provisions of the Act, especially in regards to the workplace and the applicability of ADA to state law. Moreover, the Administration has proposed funding cuts to key programs—Section 8 housing, Medicaid, and vocational rehabilitation and assistive technology—which enable many people with disabilities to achieve self-sufficiency and live independently.

On this anniversary of the American with Disabilities Act, we must make sure that we fulfill the promise made to our disabled brothers and sisters fifteen years ago. Indeed, the goals of the ADA could not be more pertinent than they are today, when thousands of soldiers are returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan with severe injuries. It is my hope that we can move forward today to fully realize the goals of equality and integration set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND  
VASILJE BUDIMIR SOKOLOVIC  
AND THE LEGACY OF HIS FA-  
THER, SAINT BUDIMIR  
SOKOLOVIC

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 26, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Reverend Vasilje Budimir Sokolovic, pastor of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, Ohio, for his thirty-five year ministry with the church. I also rise today to honor the life and spiritual legacy of his father, Priest martyr Saint Budimir Sokolovic of Dobrun, recently canonized by the Serbian Orthodox Church, who was executed by communist oppressors for his religious beliefs.

Tyranny and violence took the life of Saint Budimir Sokolovic, yet his legacy of strength, spirit, faith and ministry to others continues to live on in the life and works of his son, Reverend Vasilje Sokolovic. Reverend Sokolovic was just a young boy when his father was jailed and executed, shortly after the end of WWII. Saint Sokolovic's vocation directed him to the battlegrounds in Yugoslavia, where he provided spiritual guidance to Serbian freedom fighters battling the German occupation. He lived to see the Nazis expelled from his homeland, only to be felled under the violence of the ensuing communist regime.

Oppression and poverty dominated Eastern Europe after the war, magnifying the fear and loss for Saint Budimir Sokolovic's wife and two young boys. Rather than shrinking from his father's great legacy, young Vasilje carried his father's life and memory within his heart, following the path of ministry and service cultivated by Saint Budimir Sokolovic. Equipped with the spiritual guidance of his father and his own unwavering faith, Reverend Sokolovic entered the seminary, becoming the 42nd generation of Sokolovics to dedicate their lives to the priesthood.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and tribute of Reverend Vasilje Budimir Sokolovic, whose ministry and leadership continues to provide faith and support to countless individuals and families of the St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, and serves as an instrument of spiritual connection to the life and works of his father, Priest martyr Saint Budimir Sokolovic of Dobrun. With courage and steadfast conviction in his faith, Saint Budimir Sokolovic paid the ultimate sacrifice in his quest for religious freedom.

Reverend Vasilje Sokolovic continues to carry the faithful torch of his father—a blazing legacy of freedom from tyranny, a burning reminder of the fragility of democracy, and a light of hope and inspiration for people around the world searching for the light of liberty.

COMMEMORATING THE FIFTEENTH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERI-  
CANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 26, 2005*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, fifteen years ago today, our Nation enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act, giving civil rights protection to individuals with disabilities. This landmark legislation can be described as nothing less than monumental and groundbreaking for those with disabilities as it brought this community into the mainstream folds of our Nation.

The ADA has brought about many changes in workplaces, transportation, schools, public buildings, parks and telephone services. Closed captioning, sidewalk curb cutouts, accessible entrances and restrooms, equal employment opportunities—all are a direct result, making the ADA one of the most far-reaching pieces of legislation ever enacted by our Nation. Perhaps more important than removing physical barriers, the ADA has been successful in changing the way society views our members with disabilities. Society understands and now demonstrates that people with disabilities could, and should, fully participate in all aspects of life.

Mr. Speaker, despite the progress achieved through the ADA, there is still a long way to go before we truly achieve "full participation" for people with disabilities. In 1985, the widely regarded Harris poll determined that two-thirds of working age Americans with disabilities are unemployed, the highest unemployment rate by far of any group, and much of the impetus for enacting the ADA. The U.S. Census Bureau shows that little has changed in the last 20 years. Today, only 42% of working-age men, and 34% of working-age women, with disabilities are employed.

The ADA levels the playing field, but it cannot ensure that an individual with a disability is actually able to apply for that job, or to that university. As technological advances continue to close physical gaps for people with disabilities in and out of the workplace, let us also be mindful to provide the tools needed to cross the mental gaps they may face.

Confidence and recognition of self-worth are absolutely necessary to taking those big steps toward employment, or education. To promote this, we need legislation like the Medicaid

Community-Based Attendant Services and Supports Act, H.R. 910, a bill introduced by my colleague Rep. Danny Davis and which I have cosponsored. This bill would provide individuals with disabilities equal access to community-based attendant services and supports, taking many out of institutional care and placing them back into their homes, families and communities where they belong. In supportive and familiar environments, people with disabilities will be better prepared to take advantage of education and employment opportunities.

We must continue to educate the public, and help inspire employers to seek out qualified employees with disabilities. We must fight to broaden, not narrow, the scope of the ADA as we continually redefine the meaning of "disability." America has become more accessible to people with disabilities. This fact rightfully deserves 3 celebration today. However, Congress must continue to level the playing field and continue the promise to push for full, unrestricted access and participation for our disabled communities.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL DEALING  
WITH CLAIMS FOR RIGHTS-OF-  
WAY UNDER R.S. 2477

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 26, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today again introducing a bill to establish a process for orderly resolution of a problem that affects private property owners and the sound management of the Federal lands.

What is involved are claims for rights-of-way under a provision of the Mining Law of 1866 that later was embodied in section 2477 of the Revised Statutes, and so is usually called R.S. 2477. It granted rights-of-way for the construction of highways across Federal lands not reserved for public uses. It was one of many 19th-century laws that assisted in the opening of the West for resource development and settlement.

More than a century after its enactment, R.S. 2477 was repealed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, often called "FLPMA," and was replaced with a modern and comprehensive process for establishing rights-of-way on Federal lands. However, FLPMA did not revoke valid existing rights established under R.S. 2477—and, unfortunately, it also did not set a deadline for people claiming to have such rights to file their claims.

As a result, there is literally no way of knowing how many such claims might be filed or what lands might be affected—including not just Federal lands but also lands that once were Federal but now belong to other owners. But it is clear that R.S. 2477 claims could involve not only thousands of square miles of Federal lands but also many lands that now are private property or belong to the states or other entities.

This is obviously a serious problem. It also is the way things used to be with regard to another kind of claim on Federal lands—mining claims under the Mining Law of 1872. However, that problem was resolved by section 314 of FLPMA, which gave people 3 years to record those claims and provided that any