

10, the Sebewaing Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4115 celebrated its 50th anniversary as a chartered Post.

There is a proud tradition of military service among the residents of Sebewaing and Huron County. They have always responded to Uncle Sam's call, demonstrating time and time again how great the people of this community are. This Post which currently has 97 members who meet the requirement of military service on foreign soil or in hostile waters in a campaign for which the United States Government has authorized a medal. They proudly continue to serve their community with several annual activities, including teen dances, participation in the annual sugar festival, participation in a scholarship program, the poppy sale in support of the Veterans' Hospital, and its ceremonial drill team.

As many of our colleagues know, the Veterans of Foreign Wars works to promote the welfare of veterans, patriotic activities, and to positively influence veterans' legislation. The strength of any organization depends upon the commitment of its members, and it has been by experience that VFW members, including those of Post 4115, are among the most committed and concerned people I have ever met. They know duty and obligation. They know loyalty. They fought for it. They demonstrated it. They deserve it. That is why I have said before and I will say again that veterans' programs are the wrong place to cut when we assess our Nation's spending priorities. One of the greatest threats to our way of life would be the creation of the impression that our Nation is not serious about taking care of the veterans who have taken care of our Nation.

Among the real sadnesses experienced by Post 4115 has been the loss of some of its members who have passed on to their eternal rewards. The memories that have been shared, the dependency on one another that has been exhibited in the height of battle will live on forever. I am sure that everyone of these veterans appreciated the valor of the current members of our Armed Forces who joined together in the best of traditions to effect the rescue of Capt. Scott O'Grady who had been shot down in Bosnia, and likened it to the demonstrations of courage they personally witnessed in their own participation in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the other conflicts to which our forces have been called. The loss of a friend is one of life's hardest demands, and the call to service is one of its most precious demands. Our veterans have the proud heritage of responding to both with honor and conviction.

As we remember our many veterans in this 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, I invite all of our colleagues to join me in this special thanks and tribute to the members of Sebewaing Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4115. We owe you much.

FLAG DAY

HON. JAY KIM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 1995

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Flag Day and to express my strong support for the immediate passage of House Joint Resolution 79, a constitutional amend-

ment to protect this Nation's most valuable symbol—the American flag.

As a legal immigrant, I came to the United States in the hope of finding freedom, equal opportunity, religious tolerance and good will—all of which are symbolized by the American flag. It represents our place in the world, wherever Americans are around the globe. There is no other American icon more revered as the flag and it should be protected as such.

For more than 200 years, the American flag has been used to express all that is good and just about our Nation. Many have sacrificed their lives protecting Old Glory. It was unfortunate, therefore, that the Supreme Court ruled to reduce this great symbol to nothing more than a piece of cloth with could be desecrated at any time. We must do something to save our Nation's symbol of hope, which shines as a beacon to those around the world that this is the land of opportunity and freedom. Over two-thirds of our States have risen in support of our flag and this Congress must do the same.

In that regard, I call on all of my colleagues—Democrat or Republican—to join together in support of our Nation's symbol of truth. I look forward to passing House Joint Resolution 79 on June 28 to immediately place our Nation's symbol of truth out of reach from unnecessary desecration.

TRIBUTE TO WLEN RADIO ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 1995

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, this month, WLEN Radio in Adrian, MI celebrated their 30th anniversary.

I would like to pay tribute to the people of WLEN and their fine service to Lenawee County.

Lead by President Julie Koehn, WLEN, called the voice of Lenawee County, boasts the talents of Bob Butler who, with 32 continuous years on the air, is the county's veteran broadcaster. Additionally, WLEN's stable of stars includes: Angel Millet and Doug Spade.

WLEN's award-winning news department is headed by Mike Clement.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 30 years, the people of Lenawee County have been well served by the able people and programming at WLEN.

As a Lenawee County farmer, I look forward to another 30 years of excellent community service by WLEN.

Good communications are critical to maintain a vibrant democratic society. Congratulations, WLEN, on your 30th anniversary.

SAFETY AND HEALTH IMPROVEMENT AND REGULATORY REFORM ACT

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 1995

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, today I, along with over 60 of my colleagues, am intro-

ducing the Safety and Health Improvement and Regulatory Reform Act of 1995. The legislation will comprehensively change the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act. Few Federal programs are in need of change as much as this one.

Ensuring and promoting the basic safety and health protections for workers in this country is a moral as well as an economic imperative. Safe and healthful working conditions for our Nation's workers is not and should not be a partisan matter, nor is it exclusively the interest or responsibility of any one group or special interest. Society, through government, employers, and employees themselves, have responsibilities in helping to make sure that life and limb are not the price for being employed.

Mr. Speaker, I am an employer and a businessman myself. I know that for most employers, the phrase "our employees are our most valuable resource" is not mere rhetoric, but the way in which we view our businesses. For too long, the Federal Government, particularly in programs like OSHA, has viewed employers as adversaries, to be policed and watched over with all kinds of rules and penalties if those rules should be broken in any detail. I know that there are people in business who try to take shortcuts, and there are some who are just plain crooks. There needs to be enforcement. But heavy enforcement should be the last resort, not the first resort.

To be committed to worker safety and health does not mean to be committed to the way in which OSHA has been operating. President Clinton recently stated it quite well:

*** frankly sometimes the rules have simply become too complex, too specific for even the most diligent employer to follow, and that if the government awards inspections for writing citations and levying fines more than ensuring safety, there's a chance you could get more citations, more fines, more hassle, and no more safety.

That is the problem we are trying to address with this legislation: Too often OSHA has had too little to do with promoting basic safety and health for workers, and too much to do with promoting Government rules.

In my view nothing illustrates how OSHA has gone off on the wrong track more clearly than the fact that today few if any employers would ever call OSHA and ask for assistance or advice on workplace safety or health. That is not because employers don't want assistance, or are not aware of the importance and cost savings from avoiding workplace accidents and injuries. It is because OSHA's mission has become misdirected into a simply finding violations of regulations and issuing penalties.

We believe that a more fair and more effective workplace safety and health program would rely primarily on nonenforcement efforts, with enforcement reserved for those situations and employers where the circumstances show that enforcement is necessary and justified. Our bill reserves, after a 3-year phase-in period, one-half of OSHA's funds for nonenforcement efforts. Those funds would be used:

To expand the State consultation grants program which provides on-site assistance to small businesses in high hazard industries. In many States, the shortage of resources has meant waiting periods of up to 2 years for employers who seek these services.