

simultaneously voting at town meetings to cooperate with other colonies in defending the liberties of British America. Bolton residents also voted to offer relief to Boston residents who were suffering from the harsh measures of the British Parliament. Finally, the people of Bolton agreed to create a committee of correspondence. The members of the committee included Thomas Pitkin, Esq., Ichabod Warner, Isaac Fellows, Samuel Carver, Jr., and Benjamin Talcott.

Today, Bolton is a thriving Connecticut town that has retained much of its historic character. The residents of Bolton are proud of the rural beauty with its rolling pastureland, its unspoiled town center and its historic homes. Above all, the residents cherish the intangible virtues of Bolton: the school system that emphasizes individual instruction, the hard-working residents who contribute so much to the community, and the direct democracy of the town meeting form of government first adopted in 1720.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to celebrate the 275th anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Bolton, CT. I know they will continue their proud tradition on into the next century.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2735, THE
FEDERAL EMPLOYEE BASE CLOSURE
RETIREMENT ACT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the House voted recently to approve the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission's recommendations to close additional military bases in California with strong opposition from many in the California Congressional Delegation. We opposed the Commission's recommendations on national security grounds and because the economic impact—particularly on California—will be enormous.

We opposed the Commission's recommendations because we have very serious concerns about the effect of base closures on California's economy—particularly since our State has sustained a disproportionate number of job losses stemming from previous rounds of military base closures. Although there are no military bases slated for closure in my congressional district, I oppose the closures out of concern for the citizens of California who are being asked to bear a disproportionate burden of military downsizing.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to address an issue which I do not believe has received enough attention by the Congress. I am concerned that in the rush to close military bases we are forgetting about the impact of these decisions on the civilian employees who have dedicated their lives and their careers to strengthening and maintaining our Nation's defense. I am concerned about the impact of base closures on thousands of families of Federal workers who will lose their jobs as a result of downsizing. We must ensure that these employees receive job training and assistance in finding new jobs in the private sector.

We must also ensure that when we require employees to retire early we treat these employees in a fair and equitable manner. I am

particularly concerned about the fairness of forcing workers to retire early because of a base closure. Many of these workers will stand to lose substantial pension benefits through no fault of their own.

Mr. Speaker, we must look for ways to help soften the blow to families who will be adversely affected by military base closures. H.R. 2735, would ease some of the pain for Federal employees who are forced to retire early because of a base closure. My legislation would change language in existing law that penalizes Federal workers who are forced to retire involuntarily. As you know, current law requires that a Federal employee who retires early loses a considerable amount of his or her retirement earnings for each year he or she is under the age of 55. My legislation would reduce the penalty by one-half of an employee is forced to retire early because of a base closure.

I urge my colleagues not to forget the thousands of Federal workers who have dedicated their lives and careers to Government service. I urge you to support this important legislation.

BICENTENNIAL OF RANDOLPH
COUNTY, IL

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bicentennial anniversary of Randolph County, IL; 200 years ago, on October 5, 1795, Gen. Arthur St. Clair, the Governor of the Northwest Territory, proclaimed the southwestern one-third of present day Illinois as Randolph County, with Kaskaskia as the county seat.

Randolph County, IL is recognized as the oldest organized government west of the Allegheny Mountains. The county has sent forth numerous legislators and leaders to serve in the early days of both the State of Illinois and the U.S. Government.

Its rich history also reflects a strong French influence. The two oldest French forts in the United States are located within Randolph County. Fort Kaskaskia and Fort de Chartres both overlook the Mississippi River and the city of Kaskaskia. In addition, the Liberty Bell of the West, cast in France in 1741, is located on Kaskaskia Island.

I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging Randolph County and celebrating its historic heritage on the event of its 200th anniversary.

MS. MARY ELLEN HEISING HONORED FOR FEEDING THE HUNGRY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mary Ellen Heising, a woman who, for 20 years, has led the charge to end hunger in Santa Clara County, CA and across our Nation.

Ms. Heising joined the Food Bank of Santa Clara County in 1975, engineered a merger

with the Food Bank of San Mateo County and has served as Executive Director of the resulting Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties for the past 17 years. Today, Second Harvest is the seventh largest food bank in the Nation and helps feed as many as 183,000 people every month in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. It is arguably one of the most successful non-profit agencies around and deservedly received the nationwide Excellence in Food Banking Award as Food Bank of the Year in 1994.

Under Ms. Heising's skillful leadership, Second Harvest Food Bank runs some of the most innovative and effective programs to aid those in need. Ms. Heising began Operation Brown Bag, which provides a weekly bag of groceries to some 10,000 low-income seniors. It is the Nation's largest private supplemental food program. The Food Bank operates the Nation's biggest canned food drive too—involving 1,200 companies, 150 schools and thousands of individuals.

Those who know Mary Ellen Heising know that it is her spirit and dogged commitment to the welfare of our entire community that have made the Second Harvest Food Bank a success. She has helped thousands maintain health and dignity.

Mr. Speaker, this week at a luncheon in San Jose, CA, Ms. Heising is being honored by colleagues and friends for her intelligent and passionate leadership. I would like to invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join with me in expressing gratitude and appreciation to Mary Ellen Heising for her efforts.

IN HONOR OF THE CATHEDRAL OF
THE PINES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, NH on its 50th anniversary.

This beautiful site is located on 450 acres of land in the southern part of my congressional district offering an incredible view of Mount Monadnock in the distance.

The Cathedral of the Pines was founded in 1945 by Dr. and Mrs. Douglas Sloane, in honor of their son, Lt. Sanderson Sloane. Lieutenant Sloane died in the service of his country in World War II. To commemorate his life, Dr. and Mrs. Sloane donated the land for a memorial that was erected in his honor and in honor of all who served their country.

The nondenominational Cathedral of the Pines sits atop the site where Lt. Sanderson Sloane had planned to build a home after the end of the war. Today, 50 years later, over 100,000 people a year visit this beautiful site to admire and experience the beauty, the calm, the splendor, and the grace of this wondrous site.

I was honored to participate in a recent ceremony commemorating the golden anniversary of the Cathedral of the Pines. This event featured the participation of 70 members of Lt. Sanderson Sloane's old unit, the 379th Bombardment Group. It was an event I will not soon forget.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of

Lieutenant Sloane and the wonderful legacy of his memory, known to us today as the Cathedral of the Pines.

A TRIBUTE TO RETIRING POLICE OFFICER AND DETECTIVE, MR. CHARLES MEIER

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute and pay tribute to an extraordinary leader, Detective Charles Meier, who has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers throughout his tenure as a police officer. While growing up in Marine Park, Brooklyn, Mr. Meier quickly learned the rules of his neighborhood streets well enough to understand the undertones of issues facing his community.

Once joining the 79th precinct of the New York City Police Department, Charlie solidified his commitment to fighting crime, resulting in a long and honorable career. He patrolled his beat on foot and by scooter for over 9 years. After showing unwavering devotion to law enforcement, Charlie was selected to work as an Aerial Observer in the aviation unit. He soon came back to the force and worked at the 67th precinct and then to the 63d and stayed for over 11 years. Charlie's work was regarded so highly, that he was awarded the esteemed position of Detective Specialist for the New York City Police Department.

Few New Yorkers have contributed to the quality of life in New York as much as Charlie. Upon his retirement this year, Charlie will be lauded for his achievements as a dedicated law enforcement official in one of the most challenging cities in America for law enforcement. On behalf of the law enforcement community across the Nation, I applaud Mr. Meier for remaining on the force 32 years. He serves as a role model to us all. May God wish him well upon his retirement.

THE AMERICAN PROMISE

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, what is the American promise? It is as diverse as Americans themselves. Each of us defines it in our own way, based on our own experiences. Some call it freedom; some call it individual rights; some believe it's passing on a legacy to their community.

The upcoming PBS special, the American Promise, seeks to remind us of these commitments, to help us remember what made America great, to give our children a better understanding of American democracy in action. During the 3-hour program, stories of community spirit and involvement come to life, through real life stories currently being played out and through reenactments of significant events in American history.

One of these recreations describes how a French aristocrat, Alexis de Tocqueville, first viewed our infant democracy in 1831. De

Tocqueville was one of the first Europeans to recognize how different America was from other democratic republics. The series' producers went to Mystic, CT, in my district, to recreate the scene of de Tocqueville marveling at the busy seaport. Noting the clipper ships in port and the energy and enterprise of their crews, de Tocqueville determined that in a free country, all is activity and bustle, and that such energy in the conduct of commerce typifies our democracy.

America's rush to prosper financially was reflected in other areas of life as well; in the whirlwind of American grassroots politics and the restless activity and energy of civil society. Americans were constantly involved in all facets of public life. According to de Tocqueville, Americans deprived of such involvement and reduced to occupying themselves only with their own affairs would become incredibly unhappy. He believed that no country could work harder to be fulfilled.

This attitude, de Tocqueville claimed, was a direct result of the nature of American freedom. Freedom's achievement must be to forge common bonds, a common purpose. We must learn what de Tocqueville called the habits of the democratic heart, the balance between individual concerns and collective thought and action.

The American Promise, which airs October 1, 2, and 3, shows us that the nature of American freedom has not changed very much over the years. We may have to look harder for it because stories of carving a carousel as a community project and channeling graffiti artists into painting murals that celebrate the community do not often make front page news. The promise is still alive but must be nurtured in each individual and in every community.

I applaud PBS and the series underwriters, the Farmers Insurance Group of Companies, for bringing the American Promise to television. This partnership reflects de Tocqueville's theory of public spirit in America, where individuals are as interested in the public good as well as their own, and where each person takes an active part in the government of society.

THE WRONG MESSAGE TO PAKISTAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, last week the other body, the Senate, approved a provision to the fiscal year 1996 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill that would permit the transfer to military equipment to the Government of Pakistan. This provision was not included in the House version of the bill, and it is my strong belief that the conferees should not adopt this provision in the conference report.

The provision adopted last week, if enacted into law, amounts to a waiver of the Pressler amendment, named for the Senator who sponsored this provision which became law 10 years ago. This law prohibits U.S. military aid to Pakistan if the President cannot certify that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear explosive device. President Bush invoked the law in 1990 when it became abundantly clear that

Pakistan was not in compliance with this provision of American law. Nothing has changed in the last 5 years. Indeed, supporters of this provision do not claim that Pakistan is now in compliance with U.S. conditions. Their argument, rather, seems to be that we should provide the arms in spite of Pakistan's flouting of the U.S. conditions.

Mr. Speaker, this arms transfer would have the effect of undermining the ongoing commitment of the United States to nuclear nonproliferation. It would also heighten regional instability in South Asia. And it would send the message that countries that disregard clearly stated U.S. conditions for aid can simply ignore those conditions and ultimately be rewarded.

Mr. Speaker, The New York Times on Saturday, September 21, 1995, published the following editorial, which very concisely sums up why this arms package should not be adopted as part of the fiscal year 1996 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill.

THE WRONG MESSAGE TO PAKISTAN

In an unfortunate reversal, the Senate voted on Thursday to lift some of the military sanctions that were imposed on Pakistan five years ago. Pakistan has made no concessions to American requests that it cap its secret nuclear weapons program, and until it does so, and allows verification, it should not be the beneficiary of American military aid or be allowed to buy American military hardware.

South Asia has long been considered one of the most dangerous regions in the world for nuclear proliferation. India has tested a nuclear bomb and Pakistan wants to match its capability.

The Clinton Administration has concluded that Pakistan's secular, relatively democratic government should be supported. That is fair enough. But the way to do so is not with the military assistance program advanced by the White House and approved by the Senate. It would allow delivery of \$368 million in military equipment to the Government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Relations between Washington and Islamabad have been tense since 1990 after Pakistan violated its promises and began stockpiling nuclear materials and the United States refused to deliver 28 F-16A fighter planes that Pakistan paid for in 1988. That decision was part of a ban on military assistance to Pakistan imposed to discourage its development of nuclear weapons. The Senate would now allow reimbursement to Pakistan for the planes, which is a reasonable compromise. But the loosening of sanctions should have stopped there.

To resume military aid to a country that is secretly developing nuclear weapons and defying American nonproliferation policy makes no sense. American intelligence agencies have concluded that Pakistan possesses M-11 missiles acquired from China that can carry nuclear warheads.

The Clinton Administration could have improved relations with Pakistan by simply removing the barriers to economic aid. A poor country, Pakistan already directs too many of its resources towards the military, at the expense of its citizens.

The Senate measure was passed as part of the foreign aid bill. No similar provision exists in the House version. The House should not accept the Senate measure when it comes time to reconcile the bills. The United States should not be contributing to an arms race on the subcontinent.